太陽の黙示録 1

◎一番大切なもの

Kaiji Kawaguchi

かわぐちかいじ

BIG COMICS

太陽の黙示録 vol. 1

一番大切なもの

かわぐちかいじ

小学館

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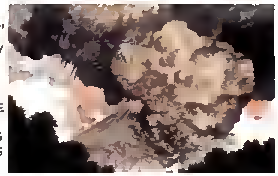
MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE, FUJI ERUPTS, TOKYO DESTROYED

JAPAN SPLIT

AUGUST 10TH, 2002 A DAY THAT NO CITIZEN OF JAPAN WOULD EVER FORGET. AT 10:20 AM, AN 8.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS THE TOKYO/YOKOHAMA AREA. THIS TRIGGERS A VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN STILL-ACTIVE MT. FUJI. THE FEARFUL TREMORS AND VOLCANIC ASH STEAL THE PEACE OF THE PEOPLE'S MINDS AND PAINT THE COMING DAY BLACK. BUT THE NIGHTMARE DOES NOT END THERE. A TRIO OF EARTHQUAKES OCCUR IN THE EASTERN, SOUTHEASTERN AND SOUTHERN SEAS SURROUNDING JAPAN. A HORRIFIC SIGHT - THE ISLANDS ARE SPLIT.

FACED WITH UNPRECEDENTED PERIL, THE GOVERNMENT REQUESTS TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION FOR REFUGEES, AND PREPARES TO ADMIT AMERICAN AND CHINESE RELIEF FORCES INTO THE COUNTRY. AMONG THE HAVOC AND CHAOS OF THE POPULACE,



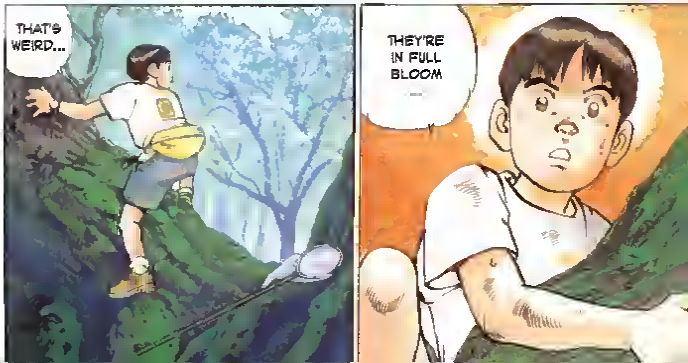
ONE YOUNG BOY CALMLY STARES AT THE FUTURE. HERE BEGINS THE CHRONICLE OF A MAN WHO BELIEVED IN THE SUN AND BROUGHT A JAPAN SUNKEN INTO DARKNESS BACK INTO THE LIGHT.

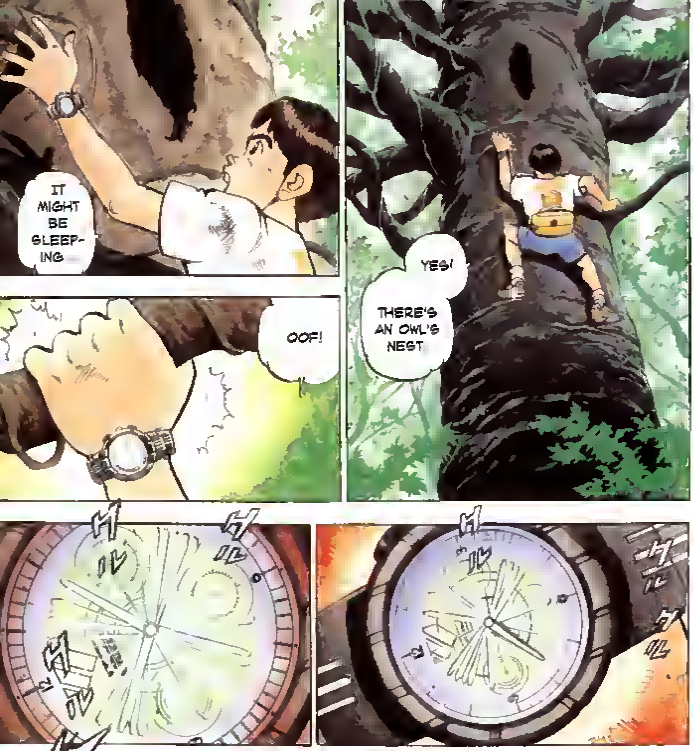
AUGUST 10TH 2002, 10:15 AM

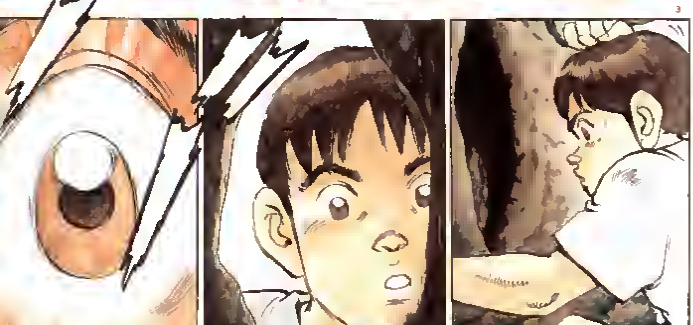
HAKONE

HUH? THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...

2


THAT'S WEIRD...
THEY'RE IN FULL BLOOM ...


IT MIGHT BE SLEEPING
YES!
THERE'S AN OWL'S NEST
OOF!



MAGNI-
TUDE 8.8
EARTH-
QUAKE
HITS
TOKYO
AND
YOKO-
HAMA

かわぐちかいじ

太陽の黙示録

A Spirit of The Sun

1

The most important thing!

A Spirit of the Sun

Chapter 1 The Most Important Thing

Chapter 2 Under the Inferno

Chapter 3 Light and Darkness

Chapter 4 Crevice

Chapter 5 A Rift in the Islands

Chapter 6 Channel

Chapter 7 Hope 175

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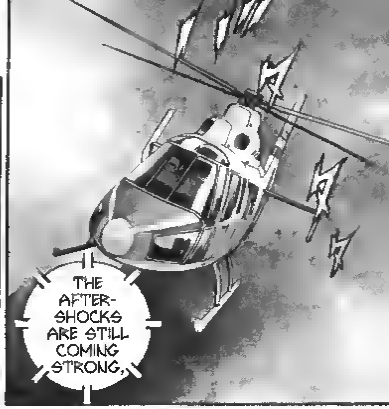
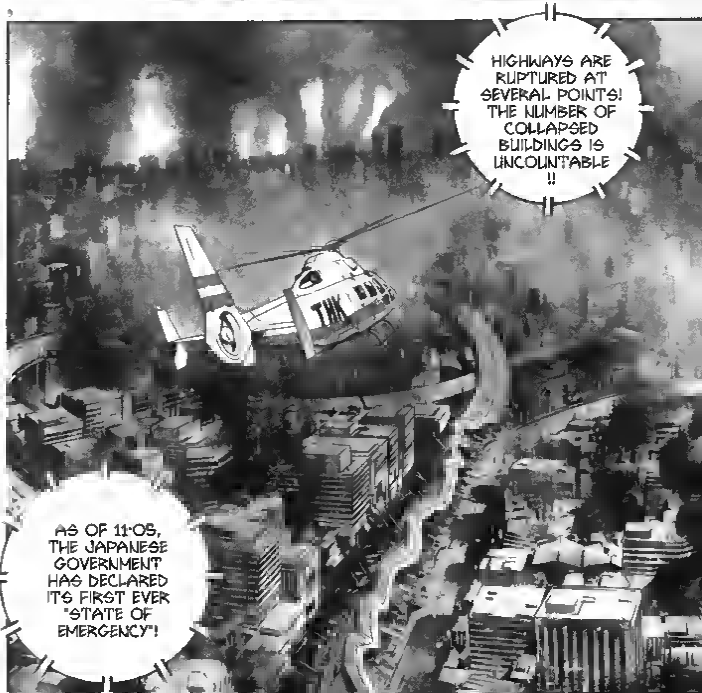
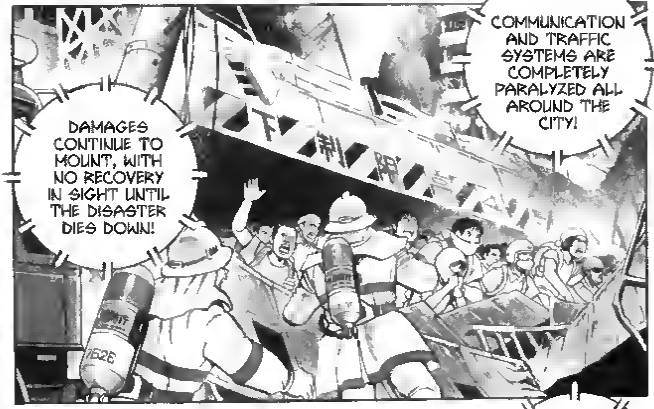
SCANNED BY: PHYXTER
TRANSLATED BY: STEPHEN PAUL
EDITED BY: CHAOSTHIRE

Chapter 1 - The Most Important Thing

AN HOUR AFTER THE INITIAL EARTHQUAKE HIT!
TOKYO IS WREATHED IN FLAMES AS FIRES CONTINUE TO BREAK OUT ALL OVER THE CITY!

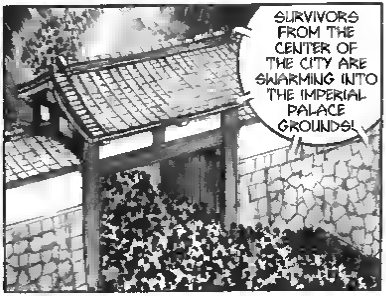

THE AFTER-SHOCKS ARE STILL COMING STRONG.


HIGHWAYS ARE RUPTURED AT SEVERAL POINTS! THE NUMBER OF COLLAPSED BUILDINGS IS UNCOUNTABLE !!
AS OF 11:05, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED IT'S FIRST EVER "STATE OF EMERGENCY"!


COMMUNICATION AND TRAFFIC SYSTEMS ARE COMPLETELY PARALYZED ALL AROUND THE CITY!
DAMAGES CONTINUE TO MOUNT, WITH NO RECOVERY IN SIGHT UNTIL THE DISASTER DIES DOWN!

AH, AND AN EVACUATION ORDER HAS JUST BEEN MADE IN RESPONSE TO TIDAL WAVE ALERTS IN THE EASTERN SEA, TOKYO, YOKOHAMA AND CHIBA AREAS !!

IT'S HARD TO EVEN IMAGINE WHAT THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS IS RIGHT NOW.


SURVIVORS FROM THE CENTER OF THE CITY ARE SWARMING INTO THE IMPERIAL PALACE GROUNDS!

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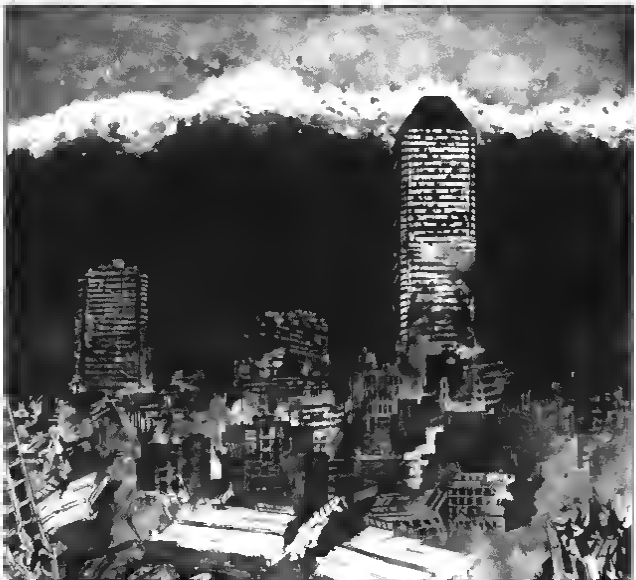
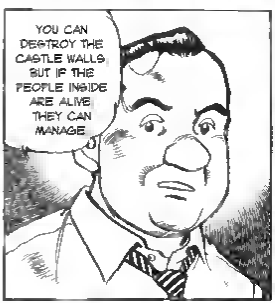
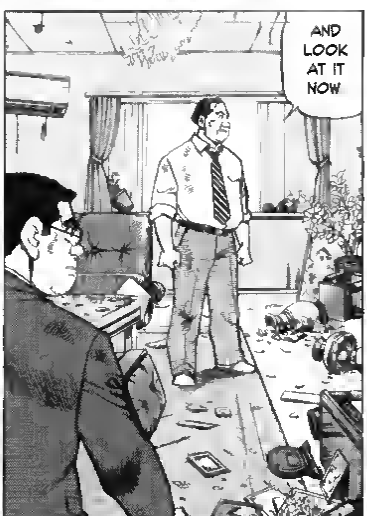


WHERE WE BUILT THE FOUNDATION OF THE JAPANESE POLITICAL WORLD...

RYUKYU

THE CASTLE OF RYU...


YOU CAN DESTROY THE CASTLE WALLS, BUT IF THE PEOPLE INSIDE ARE ALIVE, THEY CAN MANAGE.


AND LOOK AT IT NOW.

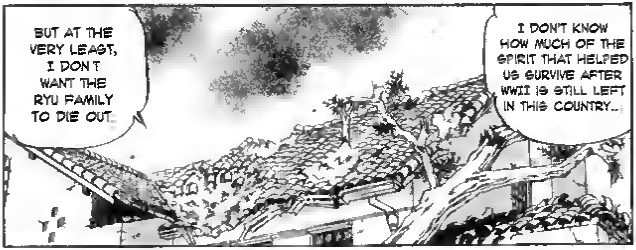
15

SIR...

I SEE. THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEFENSE AGENCY ARE HAVING A TUG-OF-WAR OVER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE?
SIR. A CALL FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE!
...ARE YOU FOOLS TRYING TO RUN OUR NATION INTO THE GROUND?
...HELLO?

THOSE POSTWAR CHILDREN ARE USELESS.
DON'T FORGET THE DANGER OF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT! ACCEPT EVERY OFFER WE GET FROM OVERSEAS!!
DO YOU THINK THIS IS SOMETHING THAT JAPAN CAN HANDLE ALL ON ITS OWN, YOU FOOL?!
OH, AND JIMICHI...
SIR?

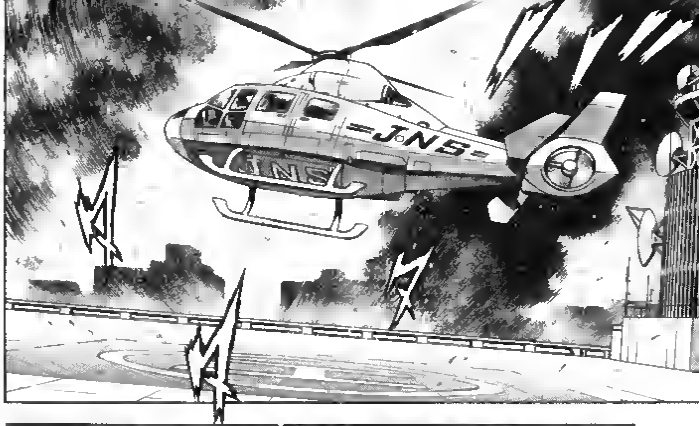
HE MAY BE A WEAK-WILLED THIRD-RATE POLITICIAN... BUT HE'S STILL MY SON
YES, SIR!
I WANT YOU TO HEAD TO MY OTHER HOME IN HAKONE AND MAKE SURE MY SON AND HIS WIFE AND BOY ARE SAFE

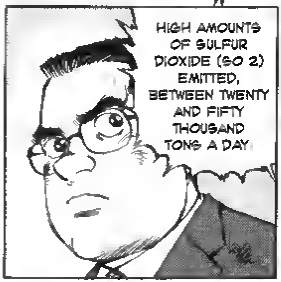

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, I DON'T WANT THE RYU FAMILY TO DIE OUT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THE SPIRIT THAT HELPED US SURVIVE AFTER WWII IS STILL LEFT IN THIS COUNTRY...

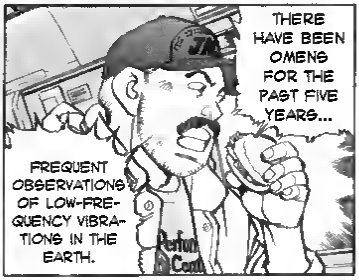
17

YES, SIR...
YOU TOOK JUDO IN SCHOOL, I KNOW YOU'RE TOUGH. I WANT YOU TO GET THERE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I WANT YOU TO PROTECT THE THREE OF THEM!
UNDER-STOOD ?

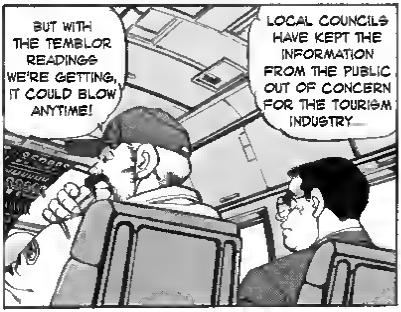
OH...!
THEY'VE ALREADY GOT A HELICOPTER ON THE WAY TO HAKONE, AND HE'S RIDING IN IT...
FORTUNATELY, I HAVE A FRIEND IN JNS TV'S REPORTING SQUAD.
FUJI ?!
IS IT...
REPORTERS IN HAKONE ...?!
YES, AT AROUND 2:30.
OF MOUNT FUJI...?
THERE ARE SIGNS OF AN IMPENDING ERUPTION.
YES...


JNS


HIGH AMOUNTS OF SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO 2) EMITTED, BETWEEN TWENTY AND FIFTY THOUSAND TONS A DAY.

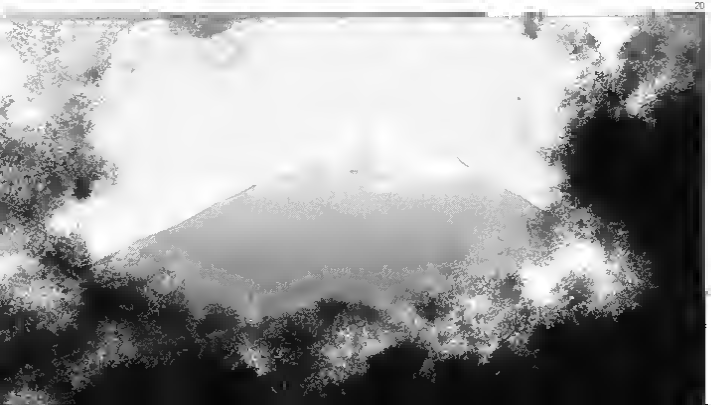

THERE HAVE BEEN OMENS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS...
FREQUENT OBSERVATIONS OF LOW-FREQUENCY VIBRATIONS IN THE EARTH.

...AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF IT DOES, TAKANASHI?
JNS


BUT WITH THE TEMBLOR READINGS WE'RE GETTING, IT COULD BLOW ANYTIME!
LOCAL COUNCILS HAVE KEPT THE INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY...

THE RADIUS OF FALLING ASH FROM THE BLAST COULD BE SEVERAL HUNDRED KM. TOKYO WILL BE LOOKING AT ONE VERY LONG SUNLESS NIGHT.
ADD AN ERUPTION TO THE EARTHQUAKES — AND YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE ENTIRE KANTO PLAINS AREA DESTROYED.

A JAPAN WITHOUT MT. FUJI ?
PLUS, JIMICHI, CAN YOU IMAGINE ...



箱根湯本

IS IT TRUE MT. FUJI'S GOING TO ERUPT?!

THAT'S NONSENSE, DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! IT'S SAFER UP HIGH WHERE THE TIDAL WAVES CAN'T GET YOU!!

Ortiz

BUT PEOPLE KEEP COMING UP THE HILL... FROM MIYANOSHITA AND GORA!!

WHERE WOULD WE GO, IZU?!

IF IT COMES TO THAT, MIYAKEJIMA AND OSHIMA ARE DANGEROUS, TOO!

DON'T WORRY, FUJI WILL ALWAYS BE FUJI!

21

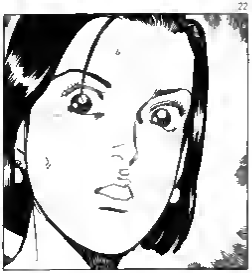
I CAN'T REACH TOKYO! WHAT ABOUT THE MANSION, UPHILL?!

IT'S NOT CONNECTING, EITHER!!

GO WHERE ?
LET'S GO, NATSUE!
BACK!
WHAT ?

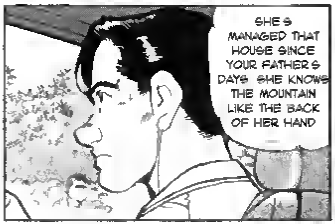
WE'RE GOING BACK UP THE MOUNTAIN, TO FIND HIM!
BACK TO TOKYO, HONEY?! WE CAN'T LEAVE GENICHIRO BEHIND!

WE'LL GO AS FAR AS WE CAN !!
BUT THERE ARE LANDSLIDES ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO GENGOKUBARA...



I HOPE TAMI'S KEEPING AN EYE ON GENICHIRO ...!

IF THE CAR CAN'T GET US THERE, WE'LL STEP OUT AND WALK!


SHE'S MANAGED THAT HOUSE SINCE YOUR FATHER'S DAYS. SHE KNOWS THE MOUNTAIN LIKE THE BACK OF HER HAND

WHY DID I LEAVE GENICHIRO IN THE VILLA?!

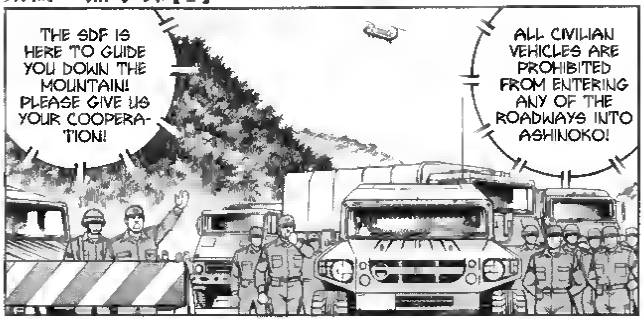
HUH?

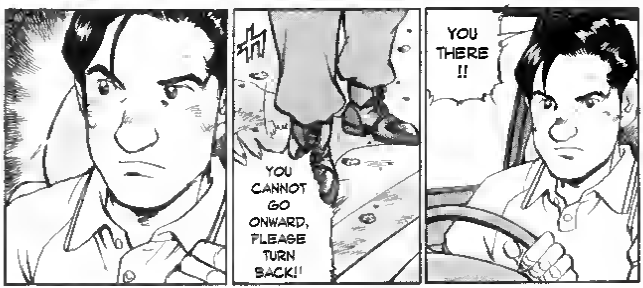
WHY... DID I LEAVE HIM THERE ?

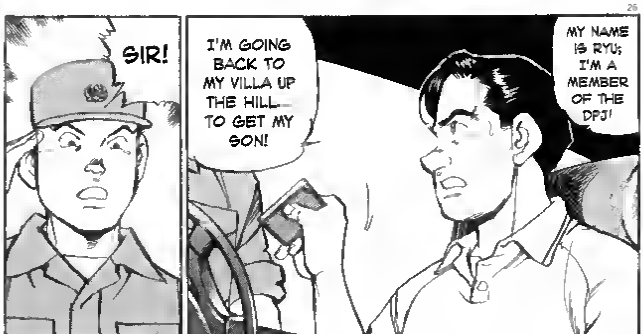
IT'S JUST A REGULAR OLD FAMILY ERRAND!!
BUYING CAMPING SUPPLIES FOR SUMMER VACATION ISN'T A POLITICIAN'S DUTY!!

POL-
ITICIANS
HAVE NO
PRIVACY
...
DIDN'T
YOU TEACH
HIM THAT YOU
HAVE TO PUT
THE CITIZENS
ABOVE YOUR
OWN FAMILY?!
HE'S
SMARTER
THAN HE
LOOKS.
I'M SURE
HE UNDER-
STANDS.
YOU'VE
GOT
RESPONSI-
BILITIES.
POLITICIANS
ARE JUST
PEOPLE.
IN A
LIVING HELL
LIKE THIS...
HAVE I EVER
REALLY HAD
AN ACTUAL
CONVERSA-
TION WITH
GENICHIRO
?!
WHEN HE
ASKED IF HE
COULD HAVE
A DOG...
24
WHY DID
I REFUSE
...?

HOW LONELY MUST HE BE FEELING AMIDST ALL THIS...?
I USED THE PHRASE, "A POLITICIAN HAS NO FAMILY" AS A SHIELD,
AND I IGNORED THE FEELINGS OF SOMEONE MOST IMPORTANT TO ME...
HOW WORRIED HE MUST BE ABOUT US!
CIVILIAN VEHICLES CANNOT PASS BEYOND THIS POINT!!
THERE IS DANGER OF MASSIVE LANDSLIDES, YOU CANNOT GO BEYOND THIS POINT !!
THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE!!


THE SDF IS HERE TO GUIDE YOU DOWN THE MOUNTAIN! PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COOPERATION!
ALL CIVILIAN VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING ANY OF THE ROADWAYS INTO ASHINOKO!

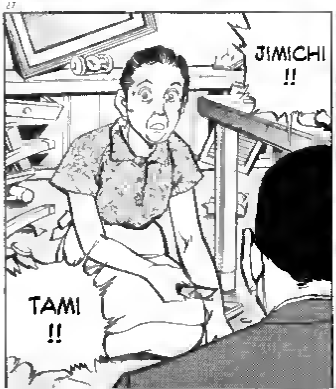




Note: DPJ = Democratic Party of Japan.

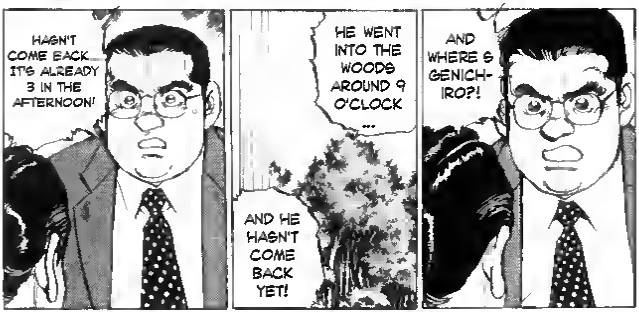
OK, JIMICHI! TAKE CARE!!
THANKS! I OWE YOU ONE !!

GENI-CHIRO ...!
SIR!! MA'AM!


JIMICHI !!
TAMI !!

!!

THE MR. AND MRS. WENT DOWN TO ODAHARA TO DO SOME SHOPPING THIS MORNING, AND I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THEM SINCE...
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS ?!

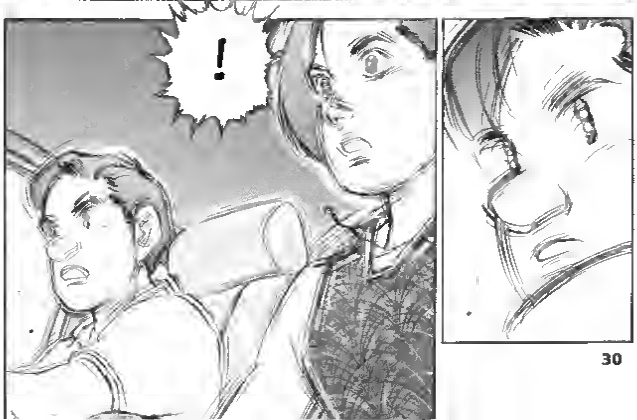

HASN'T COME BACK... IT'S ALREADY 3 IN THE AFTERNOON!
HE WENT INTO THE WOODS AROUND 9 O'CLOCK ...
AND HE HASN'T COME BACK YET!
AND WHERE'S GENICHIRO?!

I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT GENICHIRO ...!!

ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN GOING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, SAYING FUJI IS TOO DANGEROUS
IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING ELSE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN...

DON'T WORRY, AS LONG AS I FOLLOW THE JEEP AHEAD..
BE CAREFUL, DEAR!
!

SEE ?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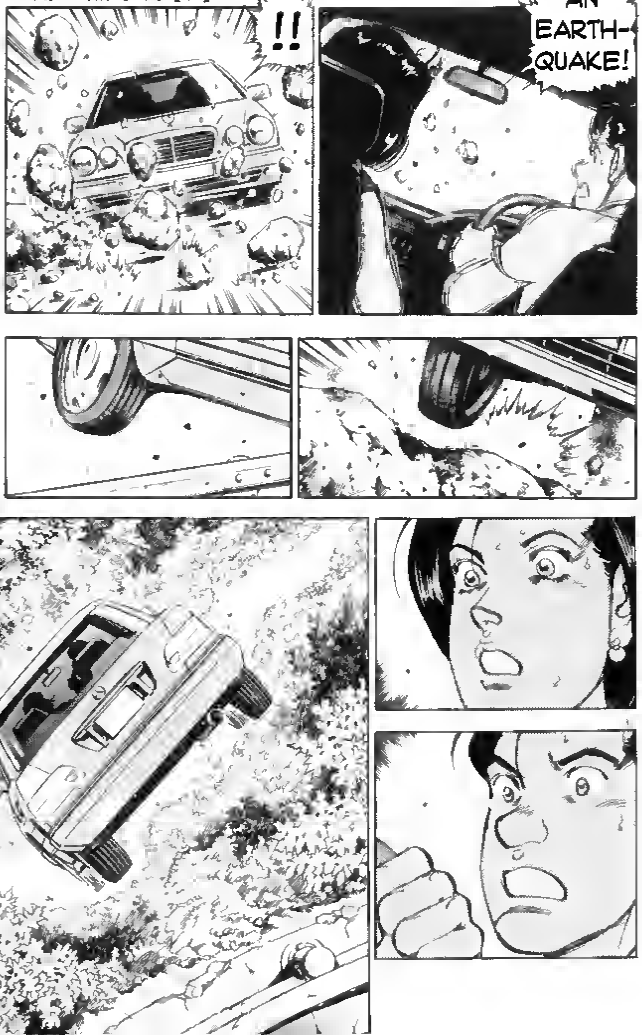
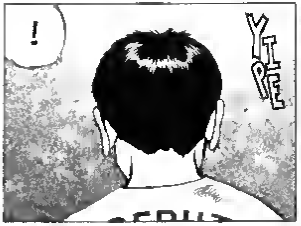

!!
AN EARTH-QUAKE!

THAT WAS A BIG ONE
OWW ...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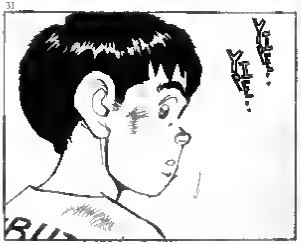
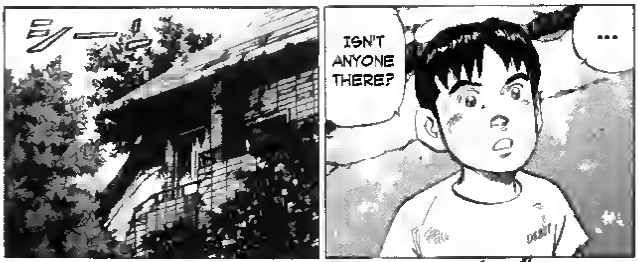
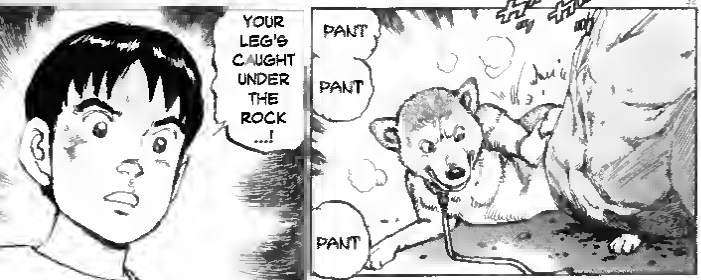


I NEED TO GET HOME SOON... PAPA AND MAMA AND TAMI ARE WORRIED ABOUT ME!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
PANT
PANT
PANT


シーン
ISN'T ANYONE THERE?
...


YOUR LEG'S CAUGHT UNDER THE ROCK ...!
PANT
PANT
PANT
DEBUT

JUST WAIT, I'LL HELP YOU OUT SOMEHOW !!
HUFF, HUFF...
NNG...
GRR!
RRR RR!
RRR ...

AA AAH !!
PANT
PANT
RRG...
!!
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ

I DID IT! YOU'RE FREE!!

パラ
パラ
パラ
DEBUT
!

YIPE, YIPE !!
LOOK AT MT. FUJI...

YIPE
YIPE!

MT.
FUJI...
!!
M...

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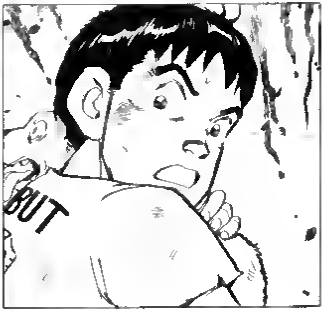
TRANSLATED BY: STEPHEN PAUL
EDITED BY: CHAOSTHRE

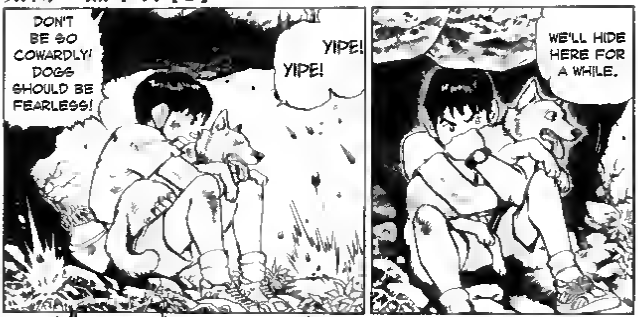
DEBUT

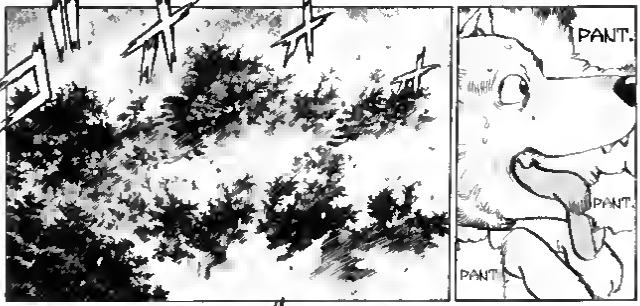
WE NEED TO GET OUTTA HERE!
YIPE! YIPE!

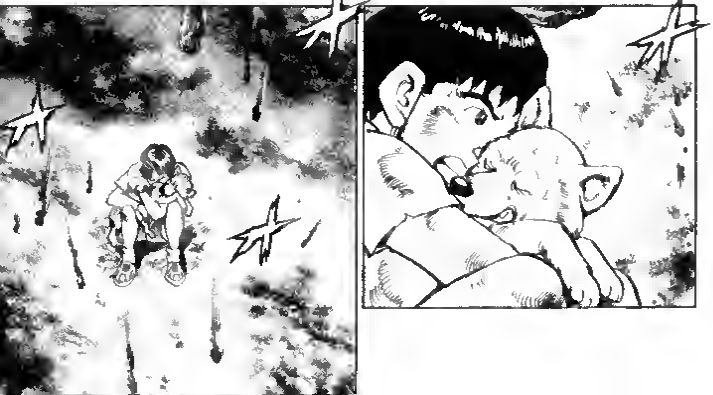

BUT

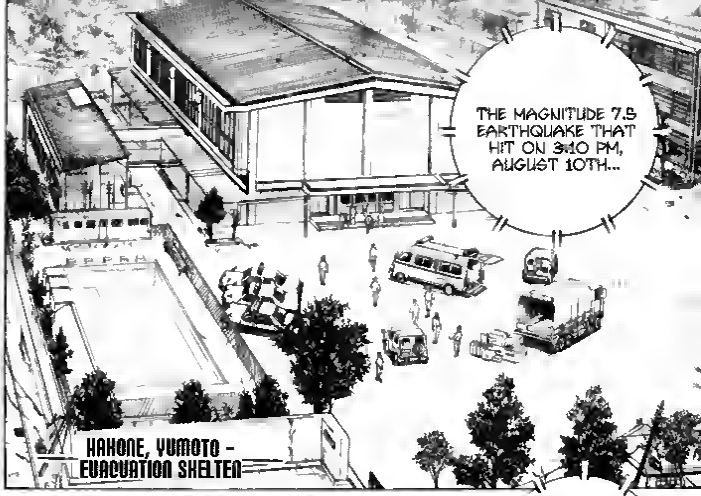
AA
AH!

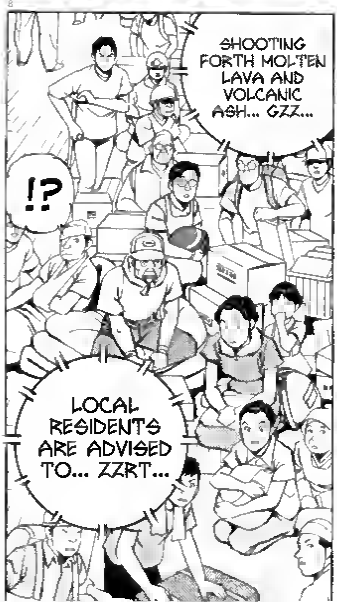
UP AHEAD, THERE SHOULD BE A...
THERE IT IS!

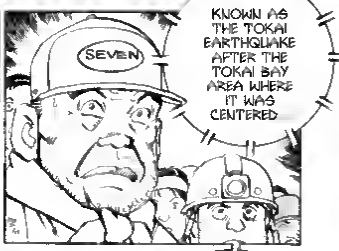

DON'T BE SO COWARDLY! DOGG SHOULD BE FEARLESS!
YIPE!
YIPE!
WE'LL HIDE HERE FOR A WHILE.


PANT.
PANT.
PANT.




THE MAGNITUDE 7.5 EARTHQUAKE THAT HIT ON 3:10 PM, AUGUST 10TH...
HAKONE, YUMOTO - EVACUATION SHELTER


SHOOTING FORTH MOLTEN LAVA AND VOLCANIC ASH... GZZ...
!?
LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO... ZZRT...


SEVEN
KNOWN AS THE TOKAI EARTHQUAKE AFTER THE TOKAI BAY AREA WHERE IT WAS CENTERED

SET OFF ACTIVITY IN MT. FUJI, BRINGING ABOUT AN ENORMOUS ERUPTION,

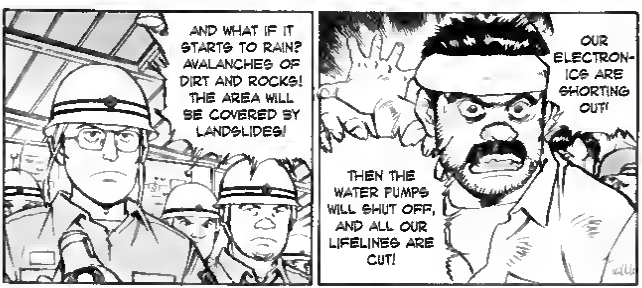
HEY...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ALSO, THE SURUGA BAY COASTLINE

LOOK AT THE ASH OUTSIDE!!
MY RADIO JUST WENT SILENT!
...DID THE TV BREAK?!

ARE WE REALLY SAFE HERE?!
IF WE CAN'T RADIO FOR HELP, THEN WE'RE STRANDED!

THE ASH FROM MT. FUJI IS FALLING ALL THE WAY OVER HERE—
THAT'S WHY THE RADIO WAVES ARE FAILING!

YEAH, RIGHT! YOU FOOLS DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF A VOLCANO!!
PLEASE, REST AT EASE! THE ASH MAY REACH US, BUT THE ROCKS AND LAVA CAN NOT !!


AND WHAT IF IT STARTS TO RAIN? AVALANCHES OF DIRT AND ROCKS! THE AREA WILL BE COVERED BY LANDSLIDES!
OUR ELECTRONICS ARE SHORTING OUT!
THEN THE WATER PUMPS WILL SHUT OFF, AND ALL OUR LIFELINES ARE CUT!

10

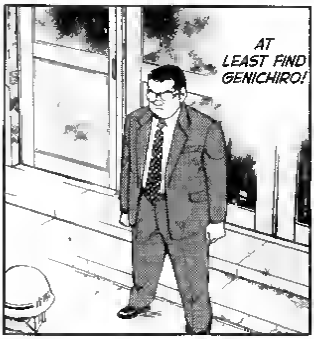
STAY CALM, DO NOT PANIC! RIGHT NOW, WE ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT SECONDARY DAMAGES CAUSED BY AFTERSHOCKS. STAY HERE, DO NOT LEAVE THIS BUILDING!!

HE HAD JUST GONE TO THE MOUNTAIN TO PLAY...
POOR YOUNG MASTER... HE LOVED HIS BIRDS AND BUGS SO...
AS I WAS AFRAID...
NONE OF THEM ARE HERE...
YOU MADE IT OUT SAFELY! OH, I WAS SO WORRIED!
FUMI-KO!!
TAMI!
!

WE DON'T KNOW! WHEN WE HEARD ABOUT THE TSUNAMI, WE LEFT OUR HOUSE AND FIELDS AND RUSHED HERE WITH NOTHING BUT THE CLOTHES ON OUR BACKS...
HOW IS YOUR HOME, IN ODAHARA?

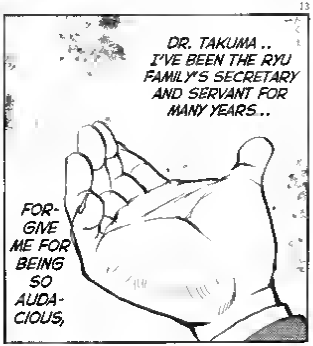
BUT... NO, YOU CAN'T!
I MUST.
TAMI, I WANT YOU TO FORGET ABOUT THE HOUSE, AND STAY HERE
WHAT ?
IS ONE HUGE BRUSHFIRE BY NOW!
BUT THE ENTIRE SENGO-KUBARA AREA...
I STILL NEED TO CHECK.
I CAN'T HELP GET THE FEELING THAT GENICHIRO HAS RETURNED TO THE VILLA.
I'LL GO BACK AND CHECK AGAIN.
12
THANK YOU.
VERY WELL.. BE CARE-FUL, MR JIMICHI!
MR. RYU AND HIS WIFE MIGHT SHOW UP HERE. I NEED YOU TO WATCH FOR THEM!

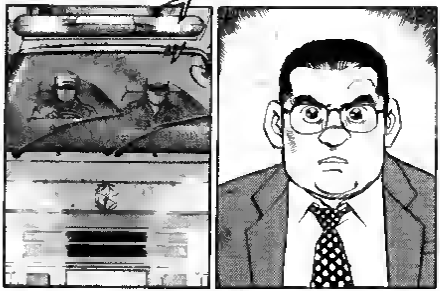
I HAVE MORE HOPE FOR MY GRANDSON GENICHIRO'S POTENTIAL THAN MY SON...
ACTUALLY, JIMICHI...

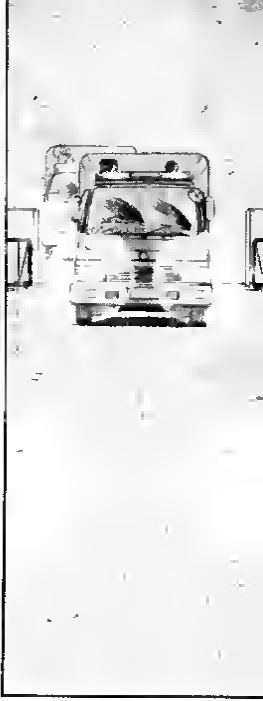

AT LEAST FIND GENICHIRO!

RUNS THROUGH GENICHIRO'S VEINS..
THE BEST BLOOD OF THE RYU FAMILY..

BUT I AGREE WITH YOU!

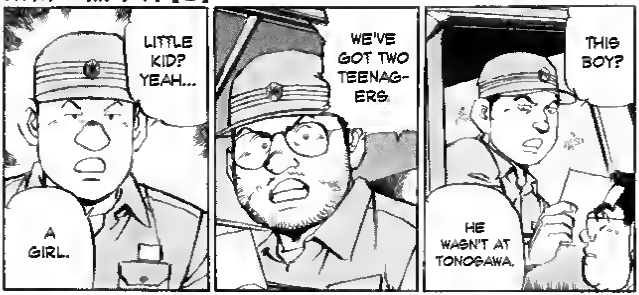

DR. TAKUMA.. I'VE BEEN THE RYU FAMILY'S SECRETARY AND SERVANT FOR MANY YEARS..
FOR-GIVE ME FOR BEING SO AUDA-CIOUS,

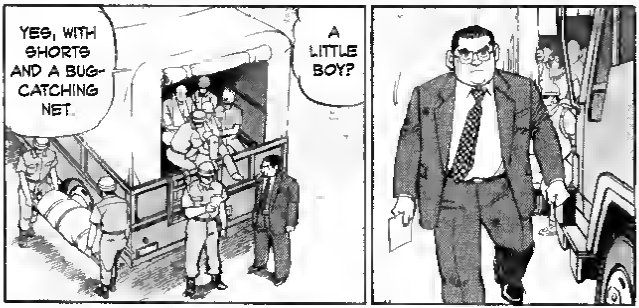




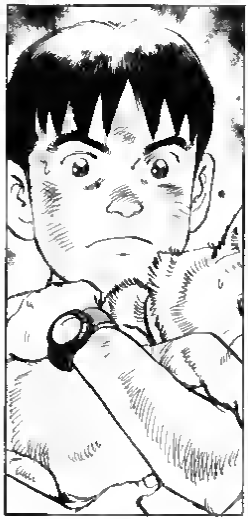
YES, WE WENT AS FAR WEST AS NAGAO-TOGE!
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU A RESCUE TRUCK FROM GEN-GOKUBARA?!

TONOSAWA'S COMIN' UP BEHIND US, ASK THEM!
I WILL!
DID YOU SEE A BOY, ABOUT FIFTH GRADE?!
NO KIDS ON THIS TRUCK!


LITTLE KID? YEAH...
A GIRL.
WE'VE GOT TWO TEENAGERS.
THIS BOY?
HE WASN'T AT TONOGAWA.


YES, WITH SHORTS AND A BUG-CATCHING NET.
A LITTLE BOY?

WELL... HE WAS WITH US.
WAS ?!
YES,
GEN-ICHIRO RYU!
IS HIS NAME... RYU?


IT'S A KID!

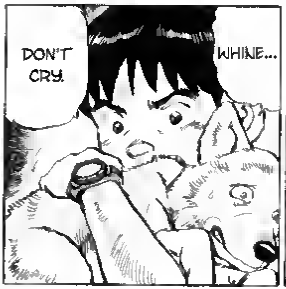
ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO, AROUND GORA, NORTH OF TONOSAWA...
HEY ...!!

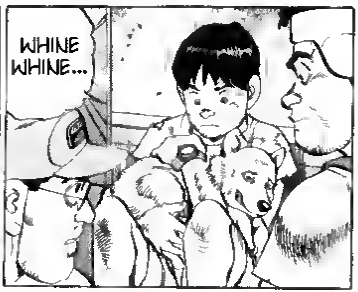
SOME-ONE'S THERE!

16

ARE YOU HURT?!
CLIMB ON!
DEBUT

WHINE...


DON'T CRY.
WHINE...

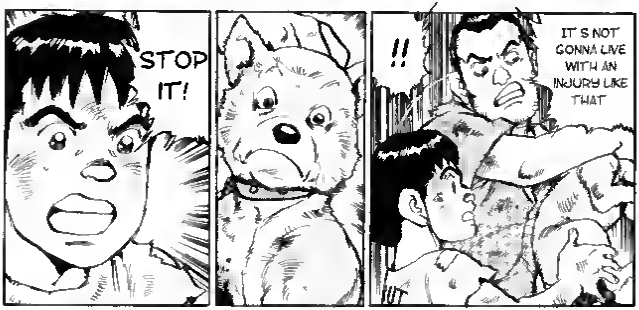

WHINE WHINE...

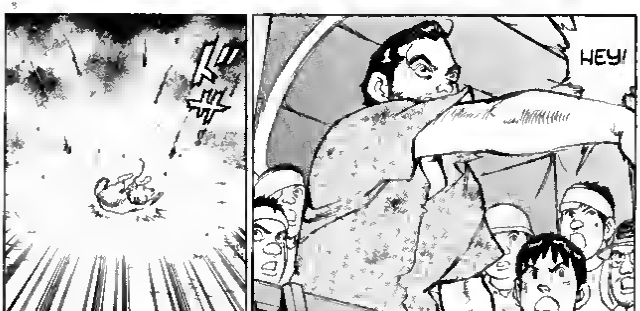
WHINE WHINE...

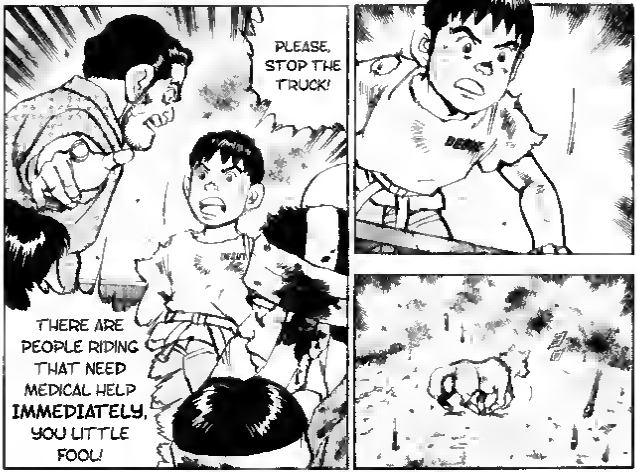
WHINE...

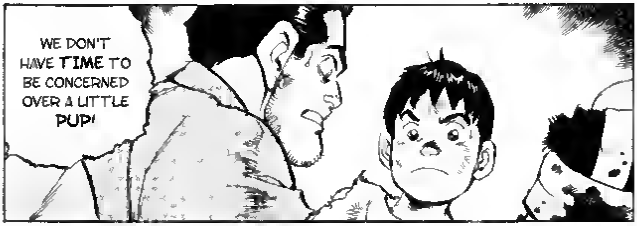
SHUT THAT DOG UP...
TOSS HIM OUT!

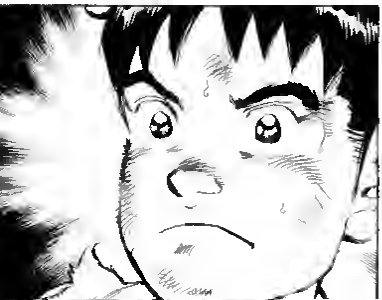
THROW THAT DOG OUT THE BACK!
WE'VE LEFT EVERYTHING BEHIND! OUR HOMES, OUR CARS, OUR FIELDS!


STOP IT!
!!
IT'S NOT GONNA LIVE WITH AN INJURY LIKE THAT


HEY!


PLEASE, STOP THE TRUCK!
THERE ARE PEOPLE RIDING THAT NEED MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY, YOU LITTLE FOOL!


WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE CONCERNED OVER A LITTLE PUP!

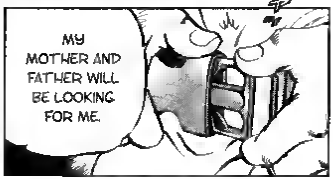


HEY, C'MON, HE'S JUST A KID

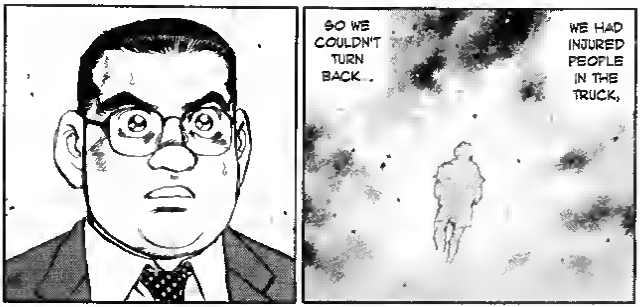
MY NAME IS GENICHIRO RYU.

IF YOU MEET THEM, GIVE THIS TO THEM.
THEY'LL KNOW IT WAS ME.

!

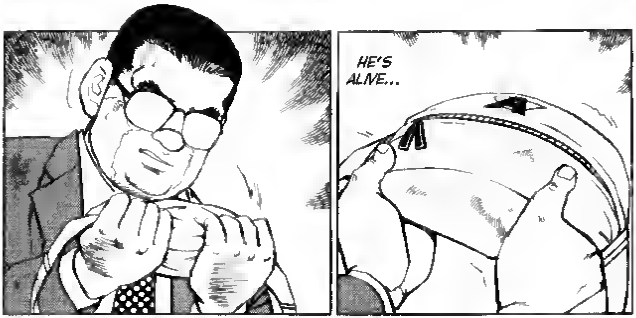

MY MOTHER AND FATHER WILL BE LOOKING FOR ME.

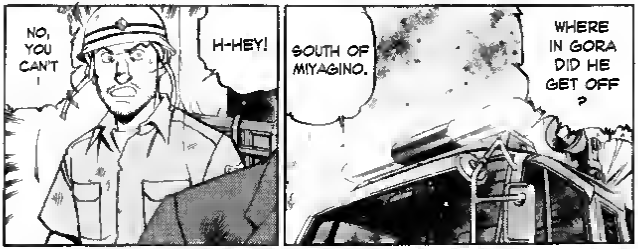
UH...
THANK YOU!
KI!!
NO, YOU IDIOT !!
COME BACK!

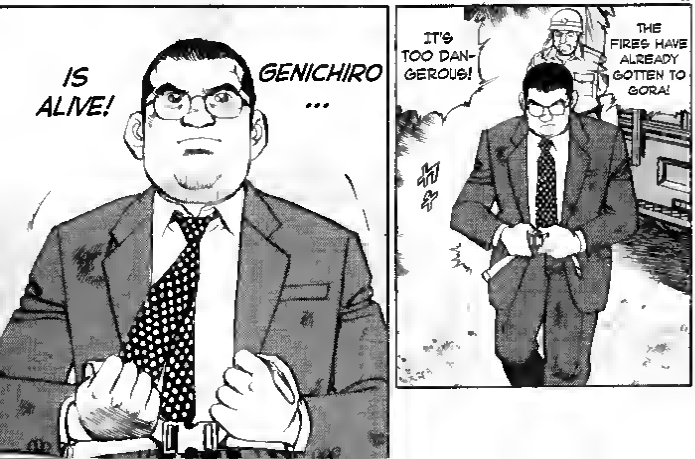

SO WE COULDN'T TURN BACK..
WE HAD INJURED PEOPLE IN THE TRUCK,

22

THANK YOU.
IT'S ALL YOURS.
HERE'S HIS PACK.

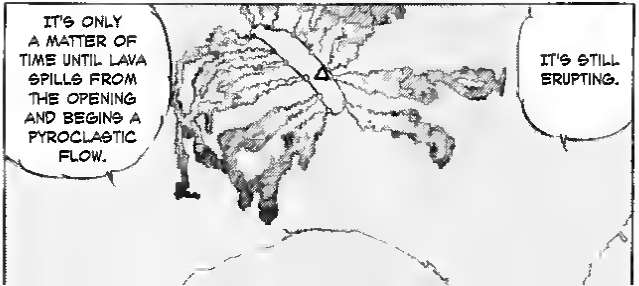

HE'S ALIVE...

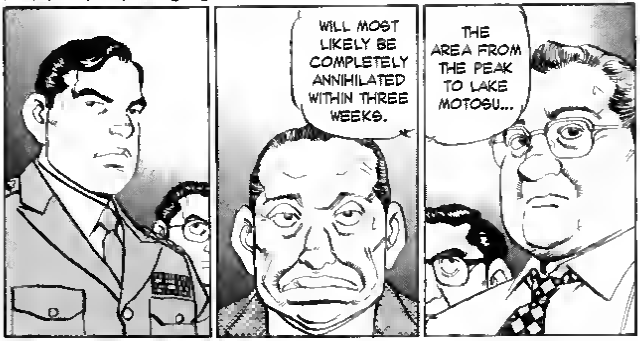

NO, YOU CAN'T!
H-HEY!
SOUTH OF MIYAGINO.
WHERE IN GORA DID HE GET OFF?


IS ALIVE!
GENICHIRO ...
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
THE FIRES HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN TO GORA!

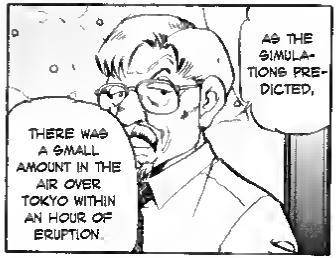
TOKYO

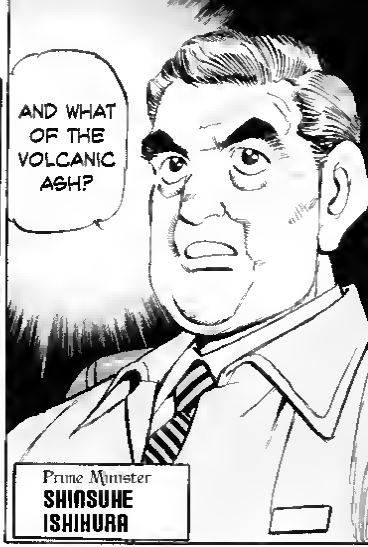
WHAT IS FUJI'S CURRENT STATUS?
PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE

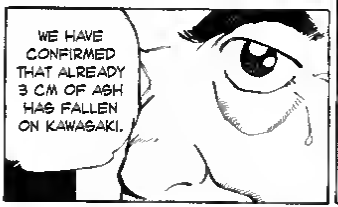

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL LAVA SPILLS FROM THE OPENING AND BEGINS A PYROCLASTIC FLOW.
IT'S STILL ERUPTING.


WILL MOST LIKELY BE COMPLETELY ANNIHILATED WITHIN THREE WEEKS.
THE AREA FROM THE PEAK TO LAKE MOTOSU...

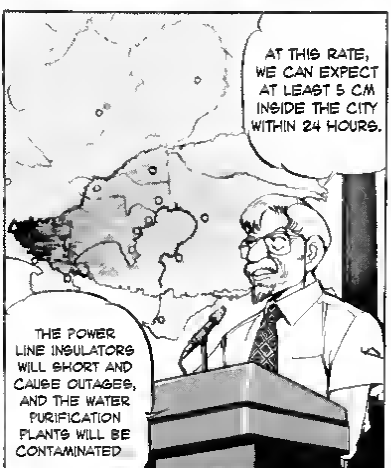
AMONG THE IZU ISLANDS, MT. OYAMA ON MIYAKEJIMA, MT. MIHARAYAMA ON OHSHIMA, AND TEISHI KNOLL OFF THE ITO COAST HAVE BEGUN TO ERUPT.
INTERIOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE

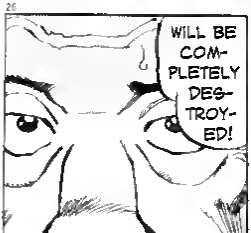

AS THE SIMULATIONS PREDICTED,
THERE WAS A SMALL AMOUNT IN THE AIR OVER TOKYO WITHIN AN HOUR OF ERUPTION.


AND WHAT OF THE VOLCANIC ASH?
Prime Minister
SHINSUKE ISHIKURA


WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ALREADY 3 CM OF ASH HAS FALLEN ON KAWASAKI.

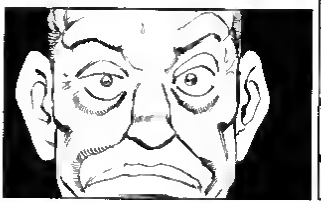
IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FEW LIFE-SUSTAINING SYSTEMS INTACT AFTER THE KEIHIN EARTHQUAKE...


AT THIS RATE, WE CAN EXPECT AT LEAST 5 CM INSIDE THE CITY WITHIN 24 HOURS.
THE POWER LINE INSULATORS WILL SHORT AND CAUSE OUTAGES, AND THE WATER PURIFICATION PLANTS WILL BE CONTAMINATED


26
WILL BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED!

THERE IS MORE, PRIME MINISTER ISHIKURA.
... WHAT ?!
EARTHQUAKES IN KEIHIN AND THE TOKAI COAST, AND MT. FUJI ERUPTING...
WHAT WILL BECOME OF JAPAN...?
IF THIS IS FOLLOWED BY EARTHQUAKES IN THE TONANKAI AND NANKAI REGIONS, IN THE WORST CASE POSSIBLE..
THE STRAIN FROM THE SECONDARY EARTHQUAKES ARE ACTIVATING FAULTS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ?!
THE ISLANDS OF JAPAN...
!?



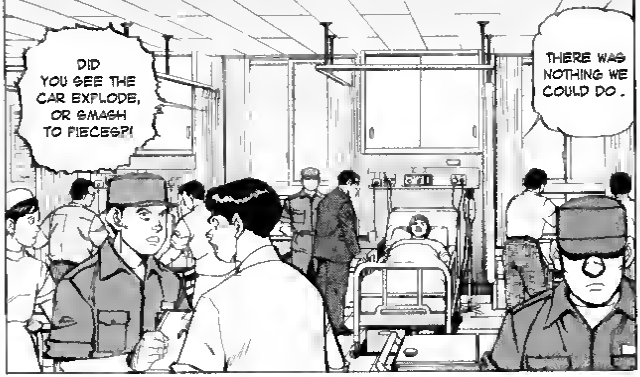
...WILL SPLIT IN TWO.

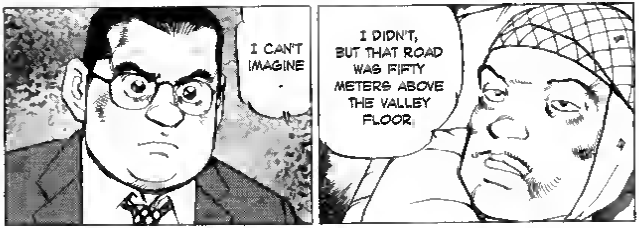
FRAC-TURED ?!
JAPAN ...

MANGASCREENER
WWW.MANGASCREENER.COM

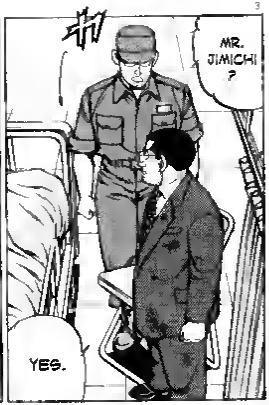
SCANNED BY: PHYXTA
TRANSLATED BY: STEPHEN PAUL
EDITED BY: CHAOSTHRE

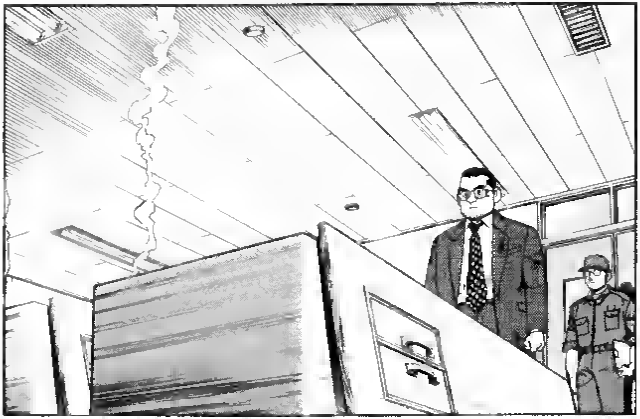
IT WAS ABOUT 3:10 P.M., FOUR DAYS AGO.
AT OHIRADAI, ABOUT 3 KM HIGHER THAN TONOSAWA.
WHEN THE TOKAI EARTH-QUAKE STRUCK
KANAGAWA PREFECTURE —DISASTER RESPONSE AGENCY,— HAKONE BRANCH
WE RAN INTO A SUDDEN LANDSLIDE
OUR JEEP WAS LEADING THE WAY, WITH THE RYUS' VEHICLE FOLLOWING
AND I SAW THEIR CAR FALL OFF THE CLIFF INTO THE HAYAKAWA VALLEY.

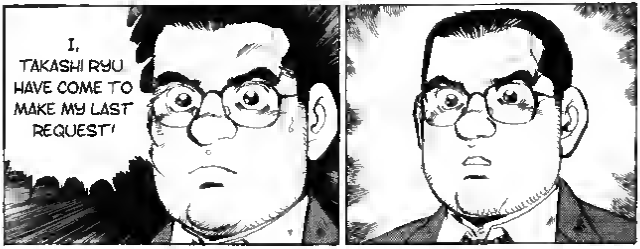

DID YOU SEE THE CAR EXPLODE, OR SMASH TO PIECES?!
THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO.


I CAN'T IMAGINE.
I DIDN'T, BUT THAT ROAD WAS FIFTY METERS ABOVE THE VALLEY FLOOR.

WE'VE RECEIVED SOME BODIES FROM THE DISASTER SITE. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

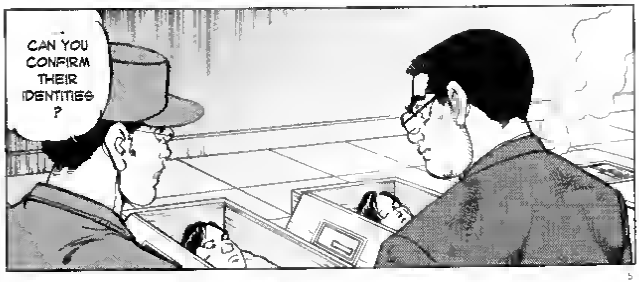

MR. JIMICHI?
YES.




I, TAKASHI RYU HAVE COME TO MAKE MY LAST REQUEST!

SEND MY VITALITY AND WILL-POWER TO THE DIET!
PLEASE, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SHOW THE DIET MY ENTHUSIASM, THAT WE MAY RESTORE JAPA-NESE POLITICS TO RIGHT!
衆議院議員
柳
公志

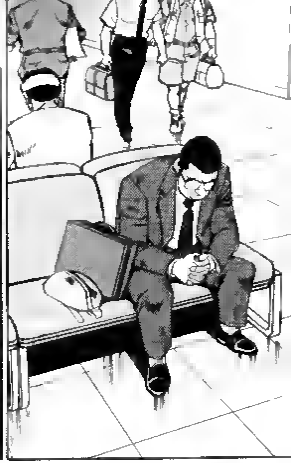
THIS IS OUR LAST REQUEST !
WE NEED ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT !!
PLEASE VOTE FOR TAKASHI RYU!

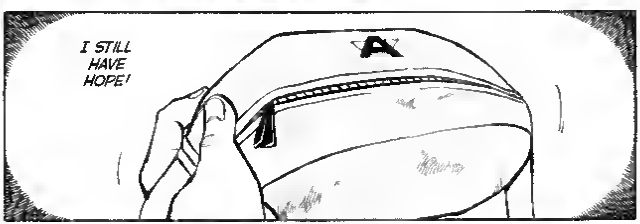

CAN YOU CONFIRM THEIR IDENTITIES ?

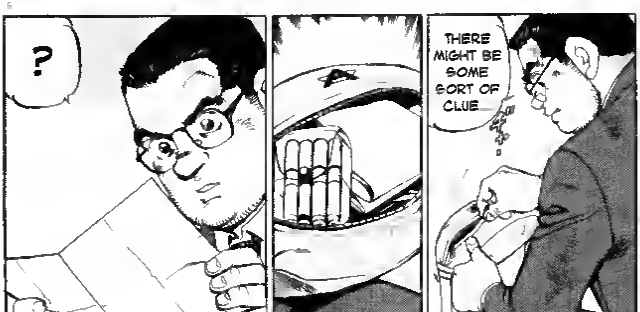
AAA AAH !

NNG ...

THE POUCH GENICHIRO LEFT BEHIND...!



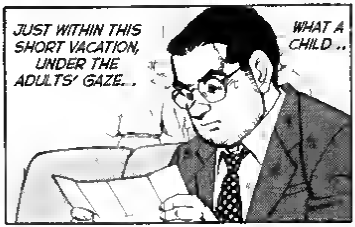

I STILL HAVE HOPE!

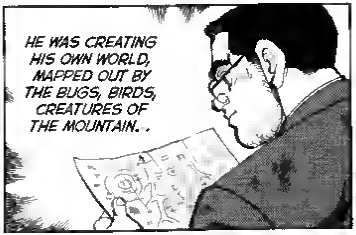

?
THERE MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF CLUE...

A MAP OF THE AREA AROUND THE VILLA...

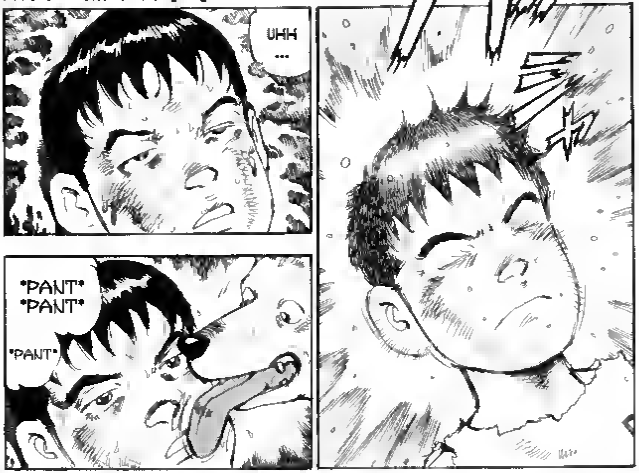
WHAT IS THIS ...?!

SUCH A BOY WILL NOT DIE SO EASILY!
GENICHIRO IS ALIVE, SOMEWHERE... I KNOW IT!


JUST WITHIN THIS SHORT VACATION, UNDER THE ADULTS' GAZE..
WHAT A CHILD..

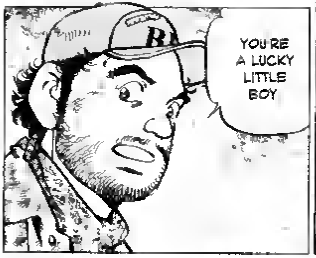

HE WAS CREATING HIS OWN WORLD, MAPPED OUT BY THE BUGS, BIRDS, CREATURES OF THE MOUNTAIN..

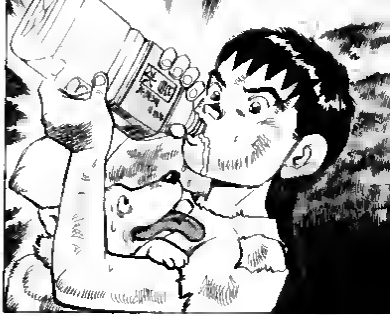
HOTEL
ホテル

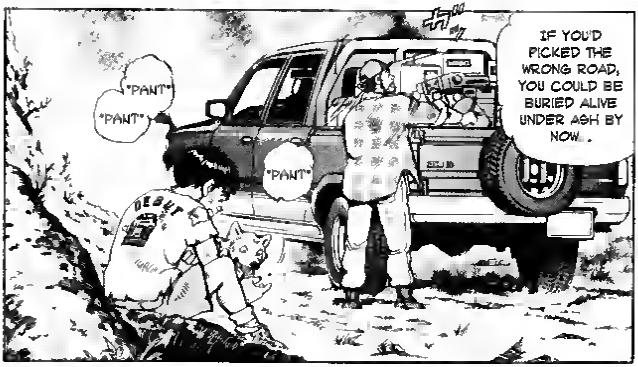

UHH ...
PANT
PANT
PANT

WOOF WOOF WOOF !!
HERE, DRINK UP.

YOU AWAKE, KID?

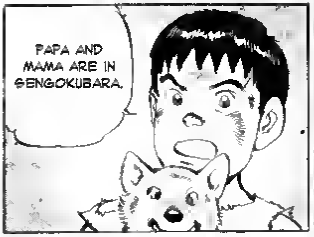

YOU'RE A LUCKY LITTLE BOY

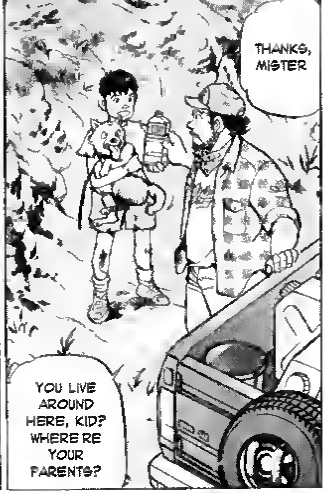



"PANT"
"PANT"
"PANT"
IF YOU'D PICKED THE WRONG ROAD, YOU COULD BE BURIED ALIVE UNDER ASH BY NOW...

UH-HUH ...

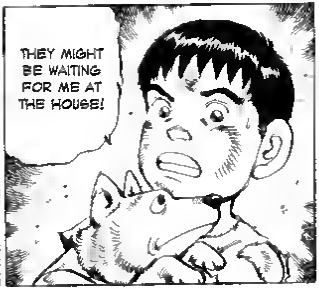
I COME HERE TO CATCH BUGS.
THE WIND ALWAYS BLOWS THROUGH THIS WAY.


PAPA AND MAMA ARE IN SENGOKUBARA.

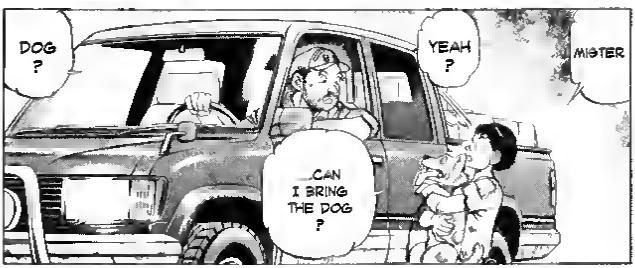

THANKS, MISTER
SENGO-KUBARA ...?
YOU LIVE AROUND HERE, KID? WHERE'RE YOUR PARENTS?

OH, THAT STRETCH O' THE WOODS IS ALL BURNED UP NOW.
THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME I HAVE TO GO BACK!

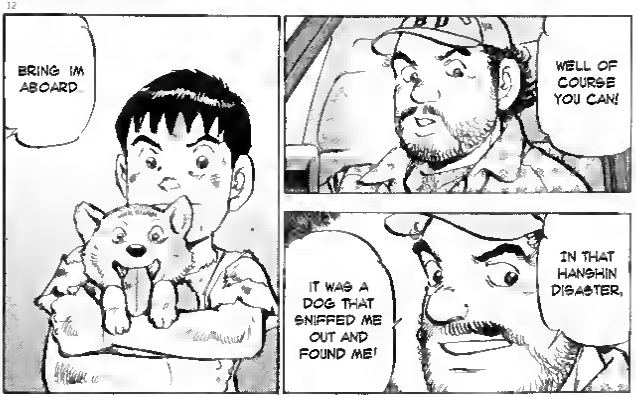
BD
BUT...

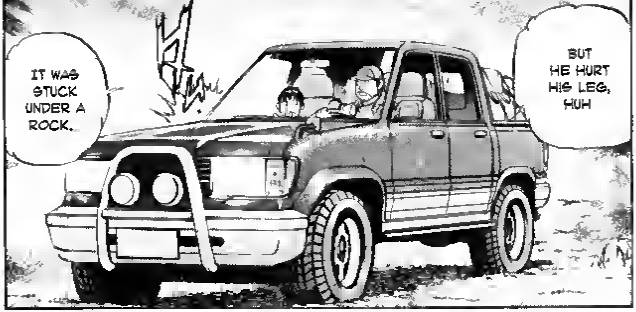

THEY MIGHT BE WAITING FOR ME AT THE HOUSE!

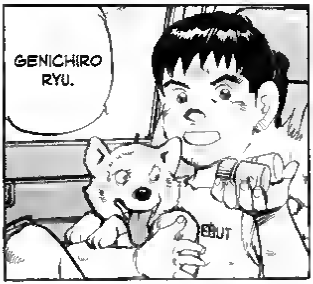
GET ON!
Y'KNOW, I LIVED THROUGH THE GREAT HANSHIN QUAKE IN '95.
...ALL RIGHT.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT PLACE IS SAFE ANY-MORE, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL GO THERE!


DOG ?
YEAH ?
MISTER
...CAN I BRING THE DOG ?

12


BRING 'IM ABOARD.
WELL OF COURSE YOU CAN!
IT WAS A DOG THAT SNIFFED ME OUT AND FOUND ME!
IN THAT HANSHIN DISASTER,


IT WAS STUCK UNDER A ROCK.
BUT HE HURT HIS LEG, HUH


GENICHIRO RYU.

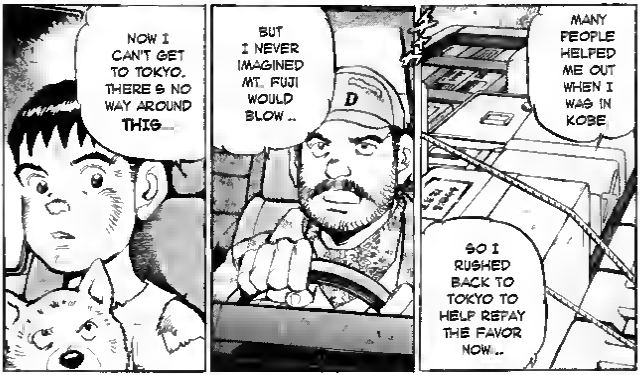
SPREAD THIS ON IT AND BANDAGE IT UP.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, KID?

HE MUST HAVE BELONGED TO ANOTHER HOME, AND COULDN'T GET AWAY..
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S THE DOG CALLED?

GENI-CHIRO... THAT'S A GOOD NAME.
MINE'S GORO SAKAMAKI AIN'T THAT BORING?

BUT A DOG'S A DOG...
LEFT BEHIND, HUH?

YEP. WATER'S THE FIRST THING YOU NEED IN A DISASTER
ALL THE STUFF IN YOUR TRUCK IS FOOD AND WATER


NOW I CAN'T GET TO TOKYO. THERE'S NO WAY AROUND THIS...
BUT I NEVER IMAGINED MT. FUJI WOULD BLOW..
MANY PEOPLE HELPED ME OUT WHEN I WAS IN KOBE.
SO I RUSHED BACK TO TOKYO TO HELP REPAY THE FAVOR NOW...

14

AREN'T YOU SCARED, THAT IT'S SO DARK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?
Y'KNOW, YOU GOT A LOTTA GUTS FOR A KID. MOST OF THE ADULTS ARE GOIN' CRAZY NOW.

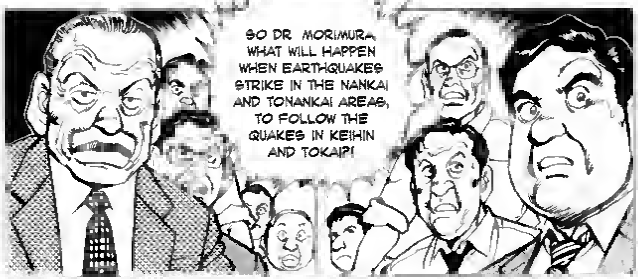
UP ABOVE THE CLOUDS OF ASH,
THERE'S NOTHING BUT THE SUN AND BLUE SKIES!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THE SUN HAS DISAPPEARED.
...!
THAT GREAT BALL IN THE SKY IS ALWAYS SHINING BRIGHT.
YER RIGHT
B D
YOU GOT IT, KID!

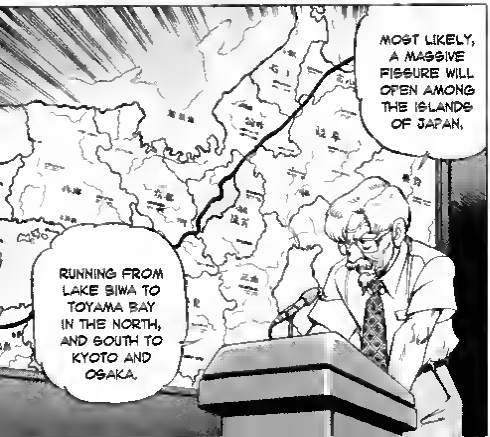
JNS
KOTO -KU,
EDO-GAWA -KU...
JNB
OHTA -KU,
NAKA-GAWA -KU,
ALL THE DOWNTOWN NEIGHBOR-HOODS
ARE SUB-MERGED
JNS

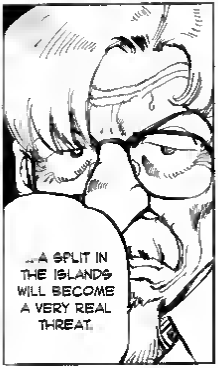
AUGUST 14TH
10:00 A.M.,
FOUR DAYS AFTER
THE KEIHIN AND
TOKAI EARTHQUAKES...
THE GOVERNMENT
ANNOUNCES AN
EMERGENCY
EVACUATION FOR
ALL OF TOKYO
CITY!

ALONG THE MITO HIGHWAY, NIKKO HIGHWAY,
NAKAYAMA ROAD, KAWAGOE HIGHWAY,
AS THE SURVIVING CITIZENS BEGIN EVACUATING NORTH,
HAS JUST BEGUN!
A VERITABLE NOMADIC MOVEMENT OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ...

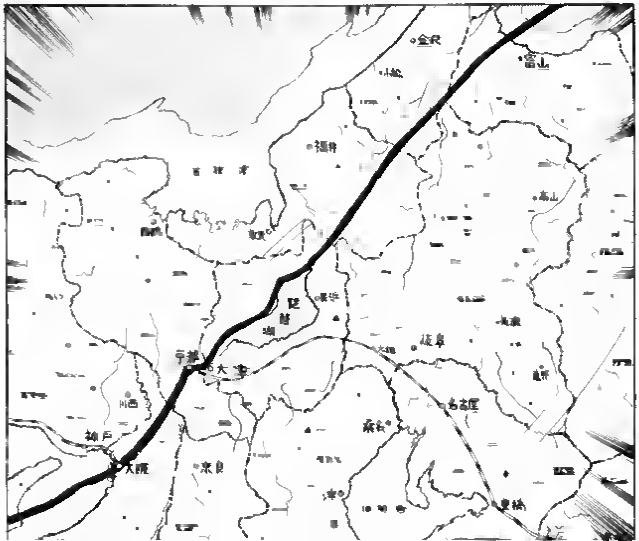
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

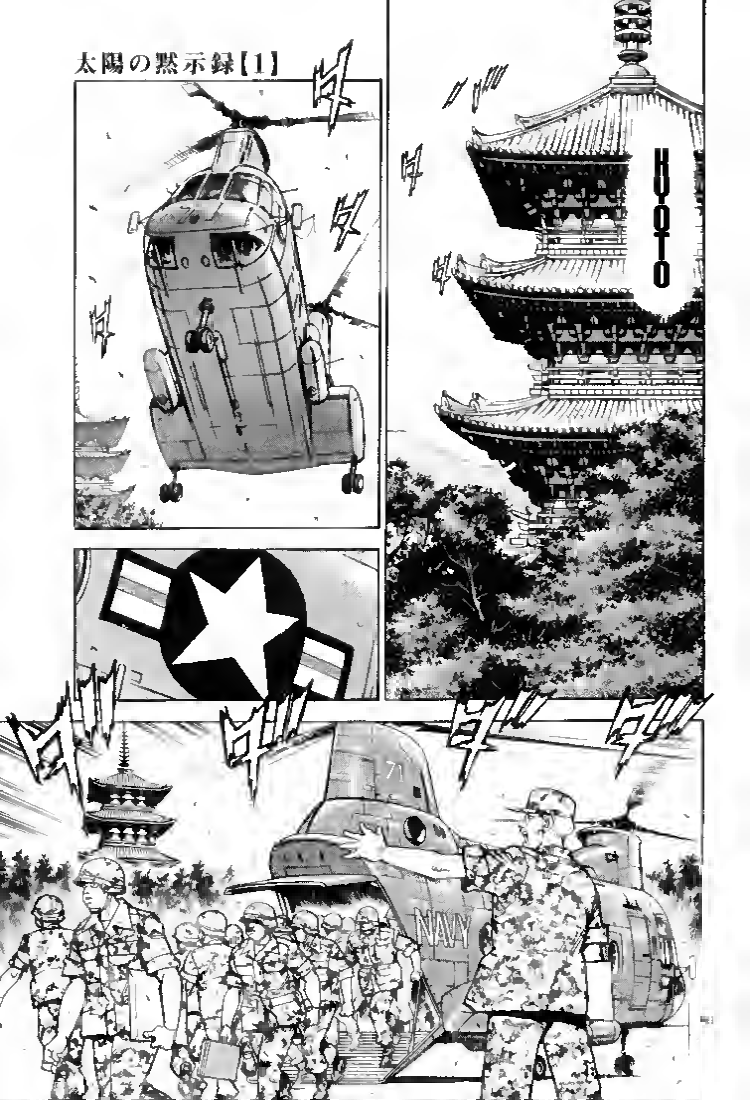

SO DR. MORIMURA, WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN EARTHQUAKES STRIKE IN THE NANKAI AND TONANKAI AREAS, TO FOLLOW THE QUAKES IN KEIHIN AND TOKAI?!

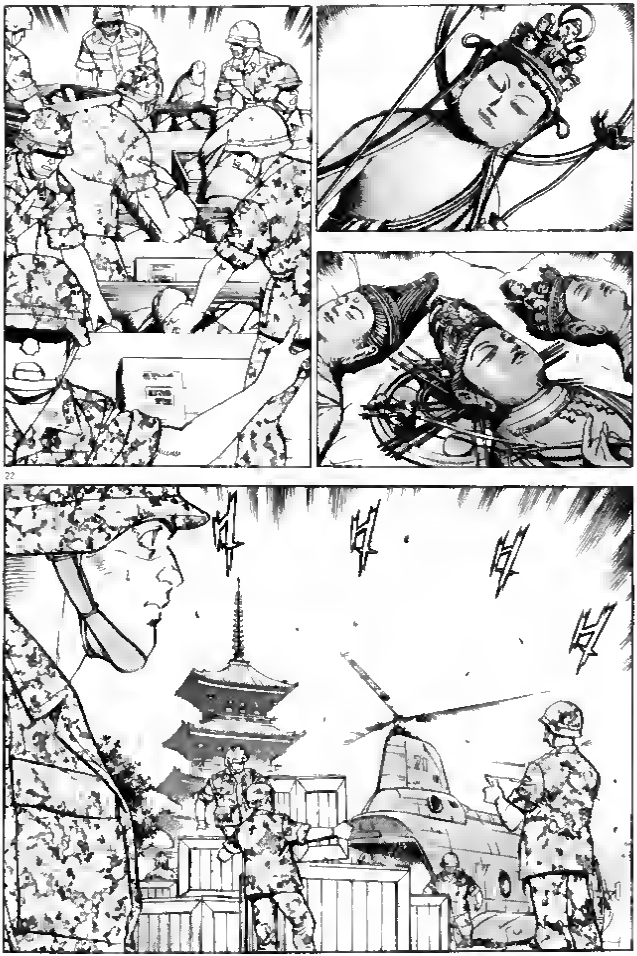

MOST LIKELY, A MASSIVE FISSURE WILL OPEN AMONG THE ISLANDS OF JAPAN.
RUNNING FROM LAKE BIWA TO TOYAMA BAY IN THE NORTH, AND SOUTH TO KYOTO AND OSAKA.

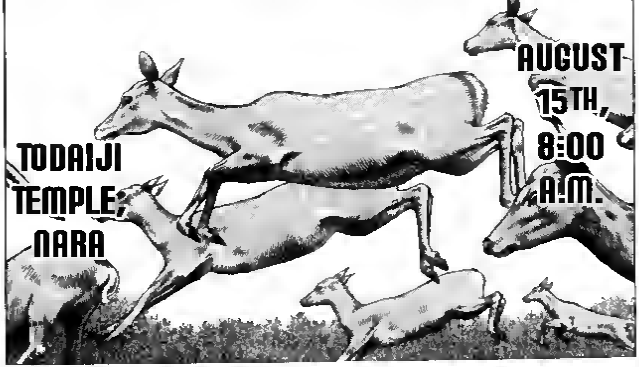

...A SPLIT IN THE ISLANDS WILL BECOME A VERY REAL THREAT.

OUR OLD CAPITAL OF A THOUSAND YEARS
BROKEN ...!
THEN... TWO MORE OF OUR LARGEST CITIES
OSAKA AND KOBE, WILL BE DESTROYED AS WELL?!
PRIME MINISTER ISHIKURA, ISSUE AN EVACUATION
FOR THE KYOTO AND HANSHIN AREAS!


金沢
富山
福井
岐阜
名古屋
神戸
大阪
京都


KYOTO
71
NAVY




AUGUST
15TH,
8:00
A.M.
TODAIJI
TEMPLE,
NARA

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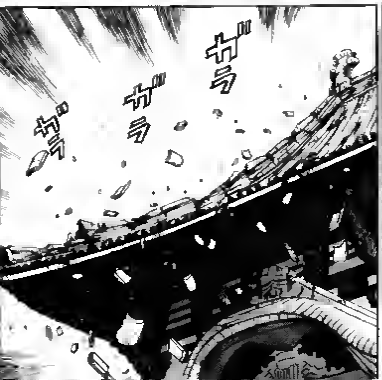
ゴ"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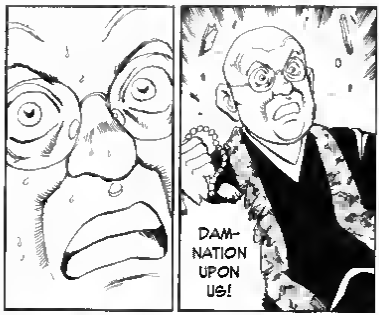
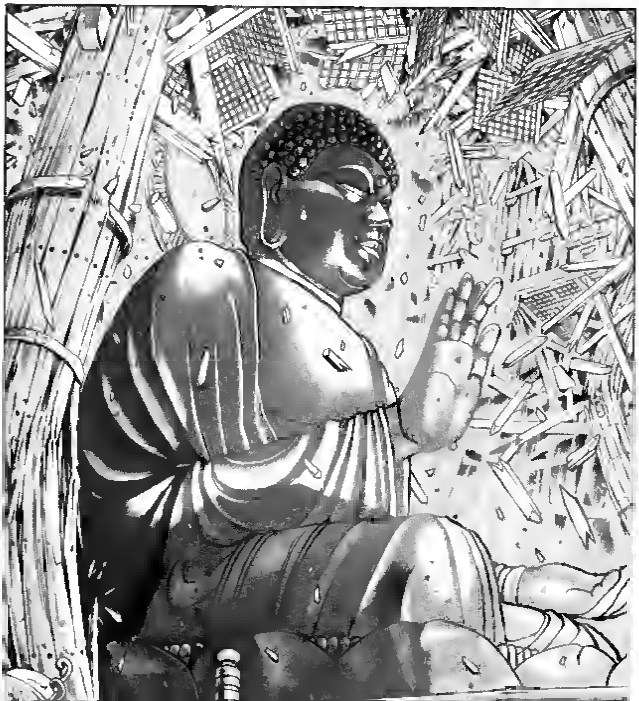

DAM-
NATION
UPON
US!



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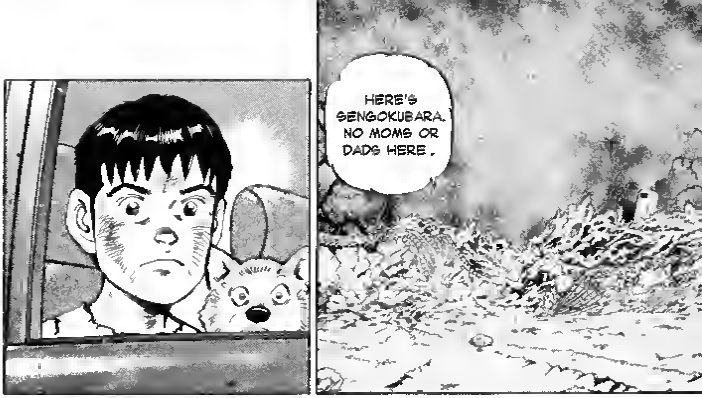
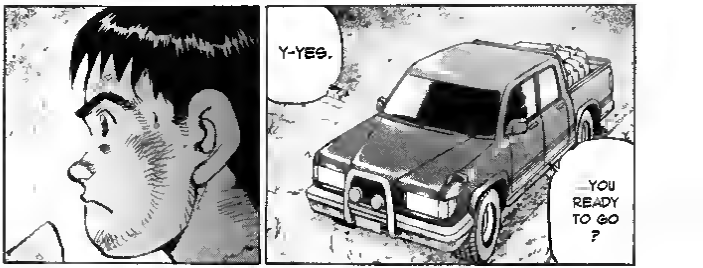
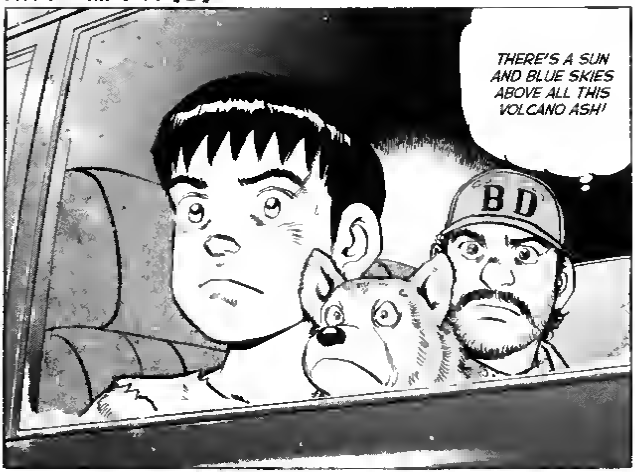
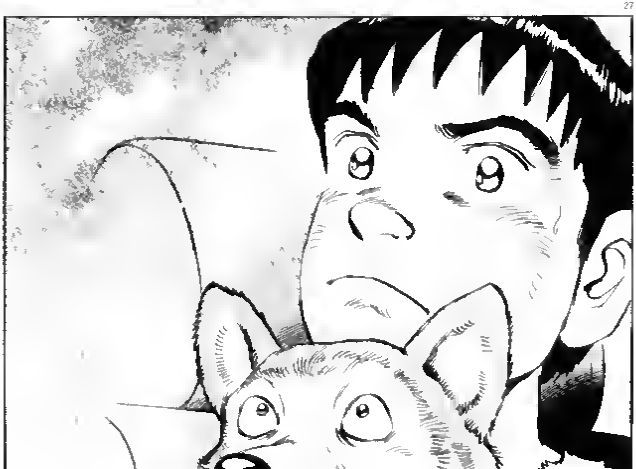

HERE'S SENGOKUBARA. NO MOMS OR DADS HERE.

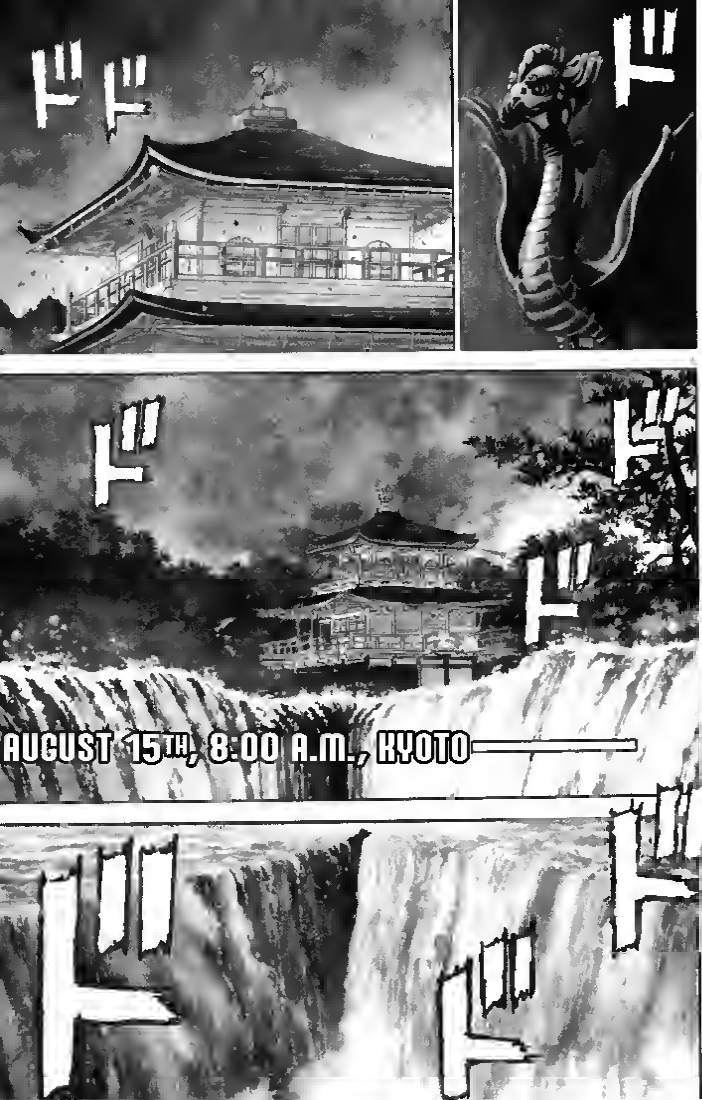

Y-YES.
...YOU READY TO GO?

KID.
HANG IN THERE...



27



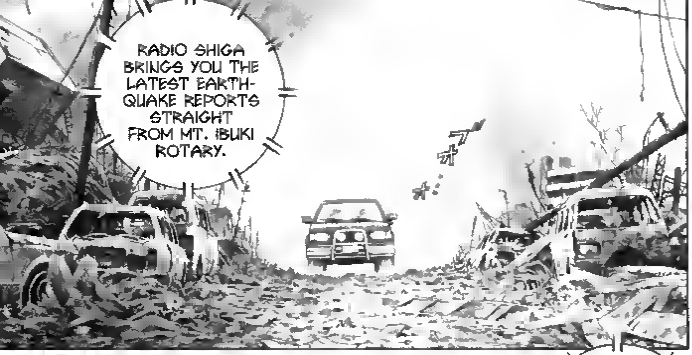

AUGUST 15TH, 8:00 A.M., KYOTO

MANGASCREENER
WWW.MANGASCREENER.COM

SCANNED BY: PHYXTR
TRANSLATED BY: STEPHEN PAUL
EDITED BY: CHAOSTHRE

SIMULTANEOUS 8.9 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKES IN TONANKAI AND NANKAI SEAS

Chapter 4 = Crevice


RADIO SHIGA BRINGS YOU THE LATEST EARTH-QUAKE REPORTS STRAIGHT FROM MT. IBUKI ROTARY.
ブオ…

名古屋市内
Nagoya
20km

THE KYOTO AND OSAKA REGIONS HAVE BEEN HIT BY 8.9 MAGNITUDE QUAKES...

DAMAGES ARE ESPECIALLY HIGH IN OSAKA, WHERE TIDAL WAVES EIGHT METERS HIGH CRASHED INTO THE CITY.

EVEN NOW, I CAN FEEL THE GROUND SHAKING BENEATH MY...
ZZT...! ZZXZX ...

GET IT TOGETHER, RADIO SHIGA!
!
KYAA! SAVE US!!

I SURE HOPE MY WIFE AND TEENAGE DAUGHTER ARE SAFE!
KOBE MUST BE FEELING IT PRETTY HARD, TOO.
I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE AN EARTH-QUAKE!
BUT JUST YOU WATCH I'LL BE COMING BACK TO KOBE EVEN IF THE EARTH OPENS UP BENEATH MY FEET TO STOP ME!

NAGOYA, LATE NIGHT

BD
RRR !
GRR R...
!!
WOF WOF WOF!
WAKE UP, MISTER!!
THEY'VE GOT FOOD, TOO!
WATER !

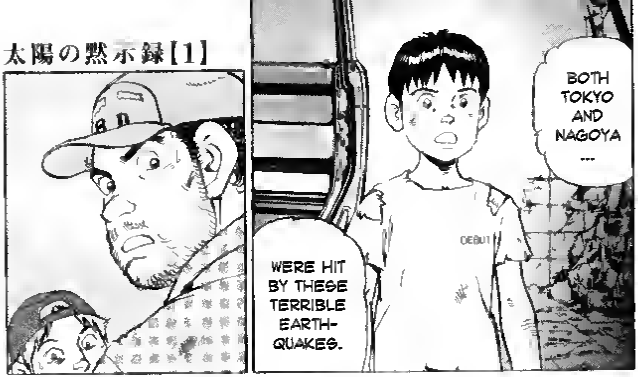
THIEVES !!
YOU LITTLE
PUT THAT DOWN! THAT AIN'T YOURS TO TAKE!!
SHUT UP!
BD
BD

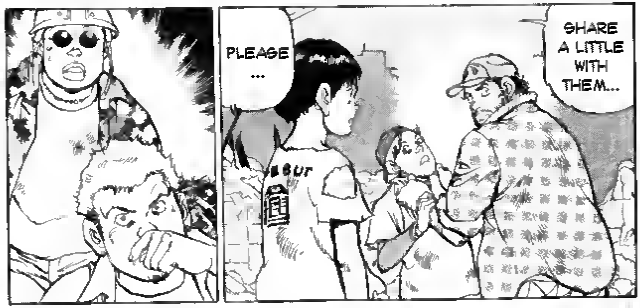
PLEASE MAN, WE HAVEN'T EATEN ANY-THING SINCE YESTERDAY!

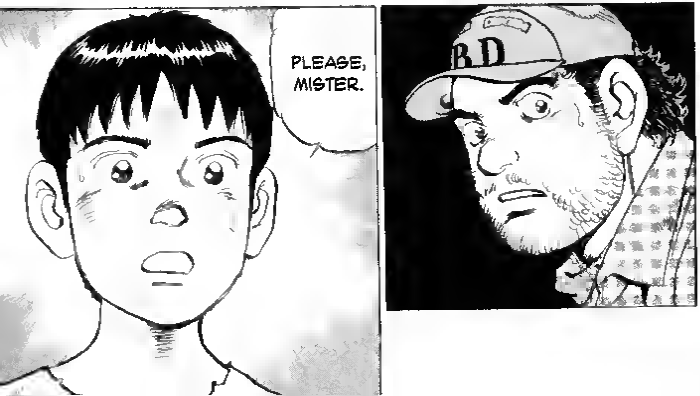
HMPH !
YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME ?!

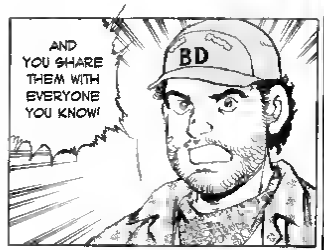
STOP IT!

SO THAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO STEAL ANOTHER MAN'S BELONG-INGS?!
BEEP !

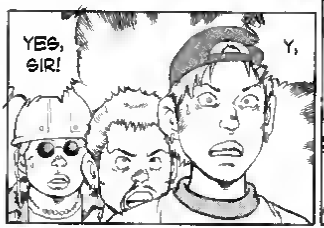

BOTH TOKYO AND NAGOYA ...
WERE HIT BY THESE TERRIBLE EARTH-QUAKES.
DEBUT


PLEASE ...
SHARE A LITTLE WITH THEM...
DEBUT


PLEASE, MISTER.
B.D


AND YOU SHARE THEM WITH EVERYONE YOU KNOW!
BD

GO ON, TAKE 'EM!
BD


YES, SIR!

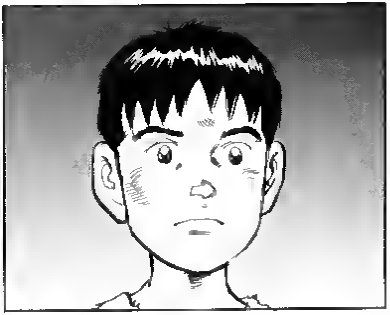
12

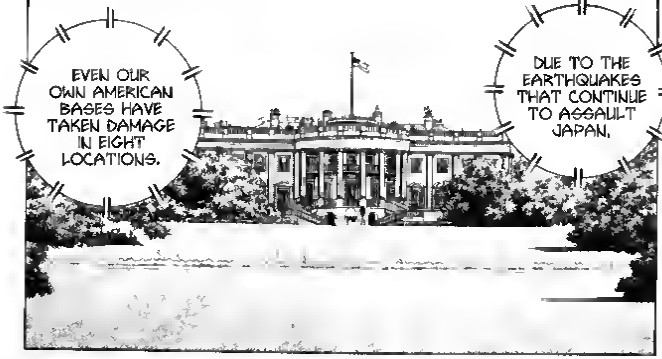
THANK YOU SO MUCH! WE OWE YOU!

WITH JAPAN BUSTED UP LIKE THIS...
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE,

B D
THE NUMBER'S GOT TO BE DEFRESS-INGLY LOW !

BUT IF THEY'RE ALL KIDS WHO CAN'T EVEN STEAL FOOD IN A GROUP OF THREE,




EVEN OUR OWN AMERICAN BASES HAVE TAKEN DAMAGE IN EIGHT LOCATIONS.
DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKES THAT CONTINUE TO ASSAULT JAPAN,

AND MANY AMERICAN SOLDIERS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES.
OUR FACILITIES IN YOKOSUKA, FUSSA AND OTHER AREAS HAVE BEEN HIT HARD.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR 50,000 SERVICEMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES STATIONED IN JAPAN,

AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF OUR ALLY, JAPAN ...
WE ARE SENDING THE UNITED STATES 7TH FLEET TO THE SOUTHWEST ISLANDS

TO DEPLOY TROOPS TO ASSIST THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, AS WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO BY THE UNITED NATIONS

YOU WERE THE MOST ACTIVE PROPONENT OF ACCEPTING FOREIGN AID
WHY IS THAT, RYU?
WHEN PEOPLE GET TIRED, THEY BEGIN TO THINK AND ACT PASSIVELY ...
WE'VE BEEN STUCK IN THIS UNDERGROUND EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR A WEEK NOW ..

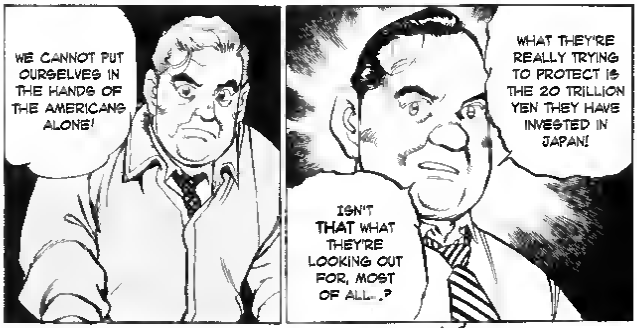
I DID NOT SAY WE SHOULD ADMIT TROOPS, MR PRIME MINISTER
I WAS SPEAKING OF NGOS AND SUPPORT GROUPS.

16

ASK TO MOVE NATIONAL TREASURES FROM KYOTO AND NARA UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES?
WHY WOULD OUR GREATEST ALLY...

BUT ISN'T AMERICA OUR GREATEST ALLY?!

IF THE MILITARY IS GOING TO HELP EVACUATE, WHY DON'T THEY PRIORITIZE HUMAN LIVES?
WELL BECAUSE

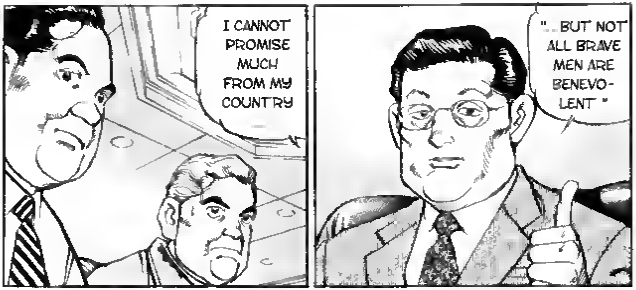

WE CANNOT PUT OURSELVES IN THE HANDS OF THE AMERICANS ALONE!
WHAT THEY'RE REALLY TRYING TO PROTECT IS THE 20 TRILLION YEN THEY HAVE INVESTED IN JAPAN!
ISN'T THAT WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING OUT FOR, MOST OF ALL...?

WHAT WE NEED IS THE COOPERATION OF A NATION WITH CONSIDERABLE MILITARY STRENGTH!!
THEN WHO ELSE SHOULD WE TURN TO?! VOLUNTEER-SCALE FORCES AREN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH!!

I'M TALKING OF AMBASSADOR ZHAO'S WORDS THIS MORNING...
WHAT?!
THAT WOULD BE CHINA.

I HEARD THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. VERY STRONG AND BRAVE WORDS, LIKE HIS COUNTRY.
I THINK WE SHOULD ACCEPT HIS OFFER

"THOSE OF VIRTUE MAY SPEAK WELL. BUT NOT ALL GOOD SPEAKERS HAVE VIRTUE. A BENEVOLENT MAN HAS BRAVERY."
BUT IN THE WORDS OF CONFUCIUS,

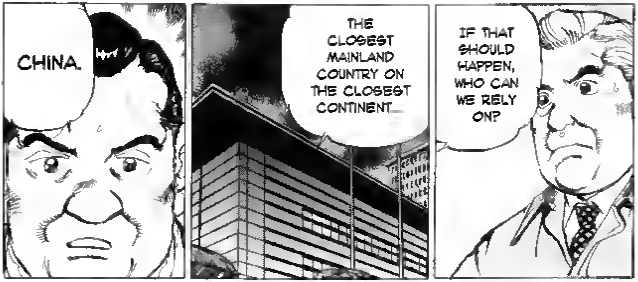

I CANNOT PROMISE MUCH FROM MY COUNTRY
"... BUT NOT ALL BRAVE MEN ARE BENEVOLENT"

WE CAN BE THE CORNERSTONE FOR YOUR NATION'S RECOVERY.
BUT WE HAVE RECOVERED FROM THE TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKES OF XI'AN AND TANGSHAN THE WORST QUAKES IN HUMAN HISTORY.

!
PRIME MINISTER ISHIKURA... HAVE YOU TRIED GUESSING HOW MANY JAPANESE WILL BE FORCED TO EVACUATE AND FIND NEW HOMES OVERSEAS?

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN TRUST THE CHINESE NOT TO ENCROACH..
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEIR EXCLUSIVENESS...

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE DESPAIR OUR PEOPLE WILL FEEL WHEN THEY'VE LOST THAT? WE DEPEND ON OUR LAND AS MUCH AS ANY OTHER PEOPLE ON EARTH...
WE'VE NEVER LOST OUR HOMELAND...

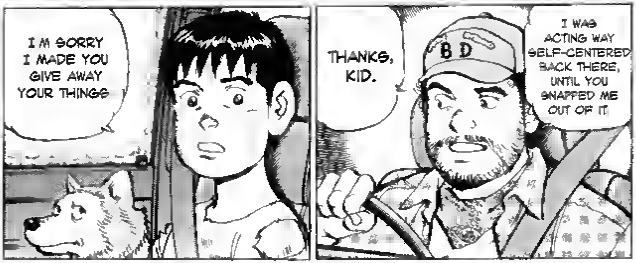

CHINA.
THE CLOSEST MAINLAND COUNTRY ON THE CLOSEST CONTINENT...
IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN, WHO CAN WE RELY ON?

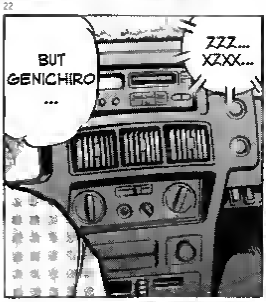
...I UNDERSTAND, RYU
I'M GOING TO PASS THAT MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR ZHAO AND ENTER NEGOTIATIONS!

EVEN AS WE SIT HERE, THE CASUALTIES ONLY CONTINUE TO RISE!
IF INTERVENTION IS YOUR CONCERN, YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN TO PUT A HALT TO IT!!

DR. TAKUMA, THIS IS JIMICHI. I'M AFRAID I HAVE UNFORTUNATE TIDINGS.
YES, SIR!
CALL THE FOREIGN EMBASSY AT ONCE!

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE MY SEARCH. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
TAKASHI RYU AND HIS WIFE NATSUE... ARE BOTH CONFIRMED DECEASED...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT GENICHIRO.


I'M SORRY I MADE YOU GIVE AWAY YOUR THINGS
THANKS, KID.
I WAS ACTING WAY SELF-CENTERED BACK THERE, UNTIL YOU SNAPPED ME OUT OF IT


BUT GENICHIRO ...
ZZZ... XZXX...

FROM NOW ON, ALL JAPANESE ARE FAMILY... IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
DON'T APOLOGIZE

WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, YOU CAN'T BE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS
I GAVE THEM THAT FOOD BECAUSE I COULD AFFORD TO...
HUMANS ARE TERRIBLY WICKED CREATURES.
THAT WAS THE ONLY WATER AND FOOD I OWNED IN THE WORLD...
IF...
I'D DEFEND IT WITH MY LIFE ...
YEAH !
THAT'S WHY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO A HUMAN BEING IS LEEWAY. UNDERSTAND?

YEAH !
I BET YER MOM AND POP ARE WAITING.
SQUEAK
ONCE TOKYO SETTLES DOWN AND IT'S SAFE, I CAN TAKE YA BACK HOME.
!
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE.
WE RE COMING UP ON LAKE BIWA...
STRANGE, I'M NOT HEARING ANY OSAKA STATIONS
WHAT'S THAT SOUND ?!

AN AFTERSHOCK. I WONDER?
IT'S COMING FROM PAST MT. IBUKI...

WHOA !!

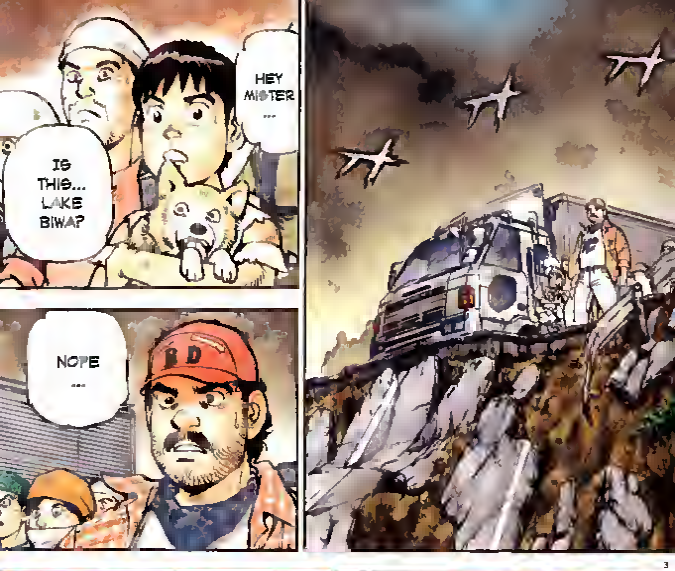
!!

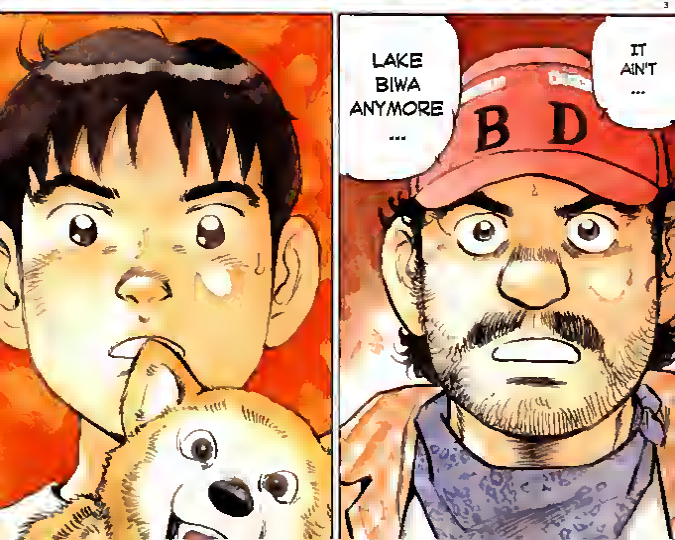
MORE LAND-SLIDES !

WHAT THE...
B D
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON OVER THERE?!

ゴゴ
ゴゴ
ゴゴ
ゴゴ
伊吹山
ドライブウェイ
Ibukiyama Driveway
WHAT'S THIS...?
!!
A TRAFFIC JAM UP AHEAD...?!

LOOKS LIKE A LAND-SLIDE.
COULD BE BIG TROUBLE.
!!


HEY MI@TER ...
IS THIS... LAKE BIWA?
NOPE ...
B D

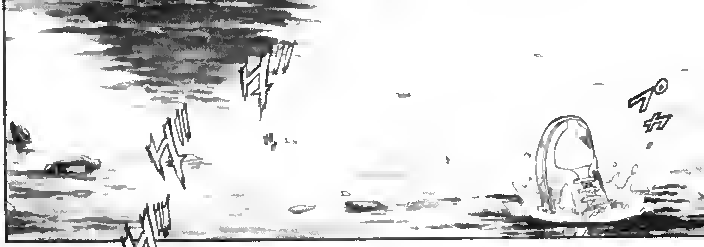

LAKE BIWA ANYMORE ...
IT AIN'T ...
B D

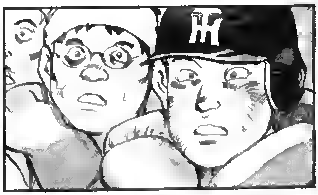
The islands· · · · · ·are divided!

Japan
is split...

MANGASCREENER
WWW.MANGASCREENER.COM
SCANNED BY: PHYXTE
TRANSLATED BY: STEPHEN PAUL
EDITED BY: CHAOSTHIRE

Chapter 5 = A Rift in the Islands

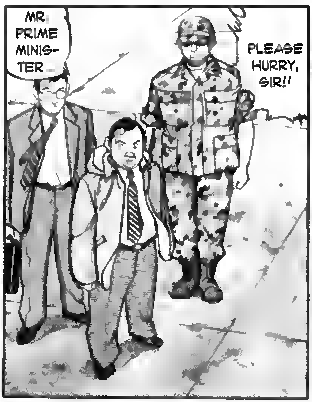


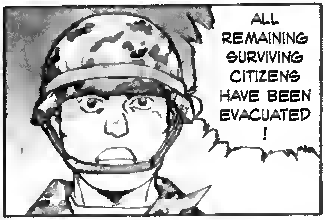


OSAKA
TOWER
...

ALL UNDERWATER NOW...
AND HIDEYOSHI'S OSAKA CASTLE ...

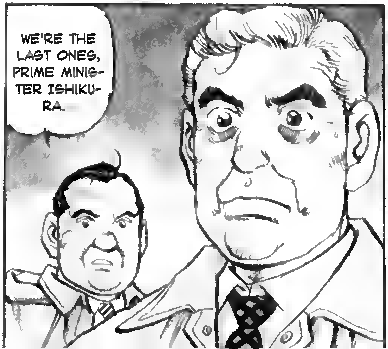
REPORT FROM THE EASTERN 1ST DIVISION!
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, TOKYO

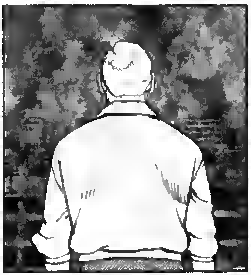

MR. PRIME MINISTER...
PLEASE HURRY, SIR!!

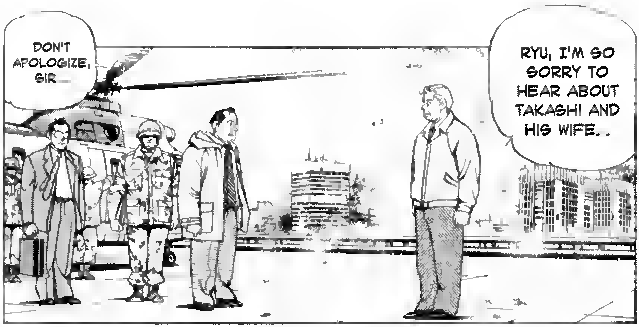

ALL REMAINING SURVIVING CITIZENS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED!

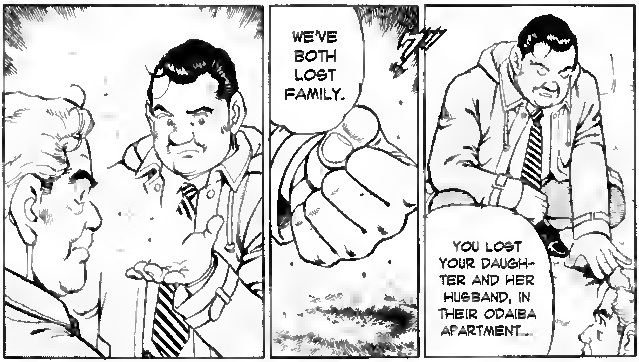
GOOD WORK...

12


WE'RE THE LAST ONES, PRIME MINISTER ISHIKURA.

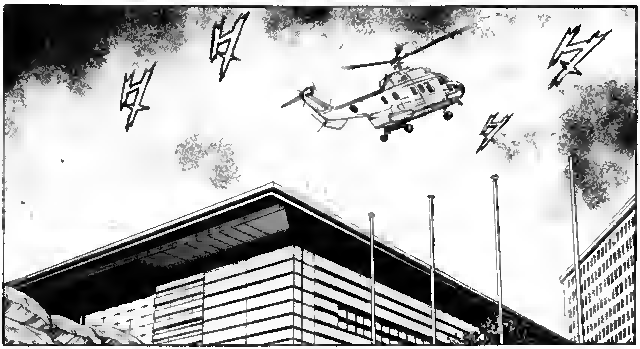



DON'T APOLOGIZE, SIR...
RYU, I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT TAKASHI AND HIS WIFE..

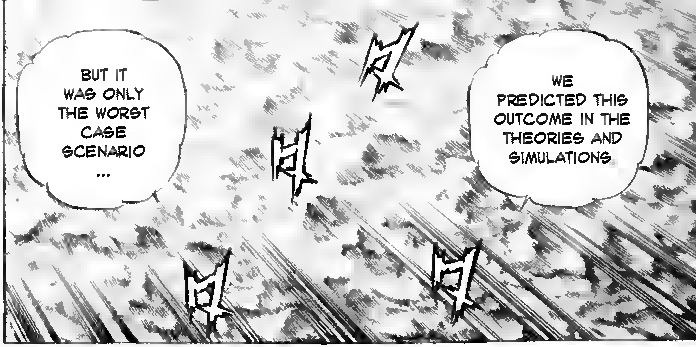

WE'VE BOTH LOST FAMILY.
YOU LOST YOUR DAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND, IN THEIR ODAIBA APARTMENT...

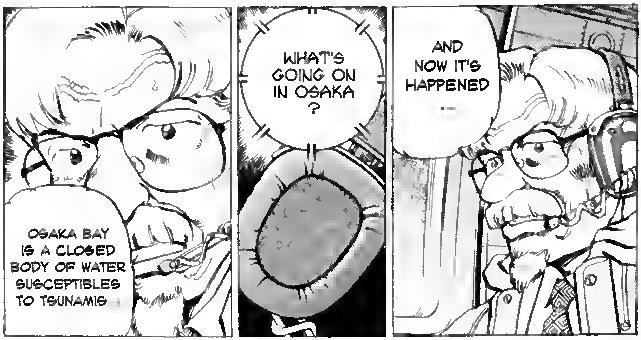
THERE ARE STILL TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS UNACCOUNTED FOR, SLEEPING BENEATH THE PILES OF ASH AND BRICK ..
WE MUST MOURN EVERY ONE OF THEM ...

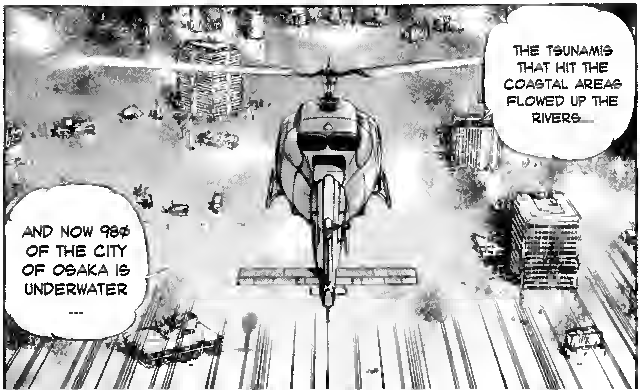
LET'S GO...
THAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.
THEN COMES THE REBUILDING OF TOKYO.

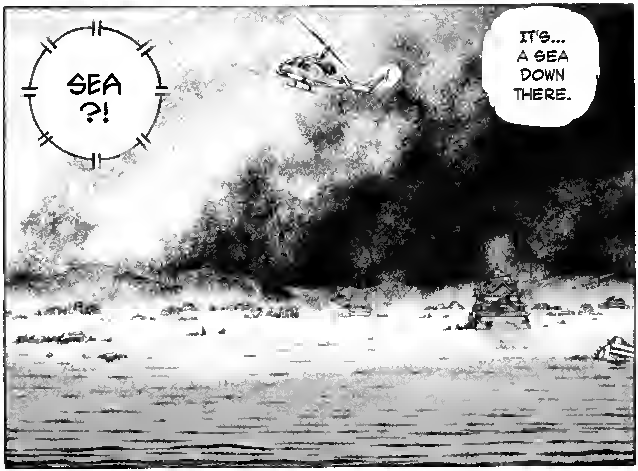


WE'VE ESCAPED THE LEVEL OF VOLCANIC ASH. LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE OPEN AGAIN!
CALL DR. MORIMURA, IN KANSAI.
YOU STILL CAN'T SEE THE SUN
DOCTOR? WE'RE ON A CHOPPER OUT OF TOKYO, HEADING TO HOKKAIDO.
HUH ?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
WHAT'S KANSAI LIKE RIGHT NOW?


BUT IT WAS ONLY THE WORST CASE SCENARIO ...
WE PREDICTED THIS OUTCOME IN THE THEORIES AND SIMULATIONS


OSAKA BAY IS A CLOSED BODY OF WATER SUSCEPTIBLES TO TSUNAMIS
WHAT'S GOING ON IN OSAKA ?
AND NOW IT'S HAPPENED ...


AND NOW 98% OF THE CITY OF OSAKA IS UNDERWATER ...
THE TSUNAMIS THAT HIT THE COASTAL AREAS FLOWED UP THE RIVERS...


SEA ?!
IT'S... A SEA DOWN THERE.

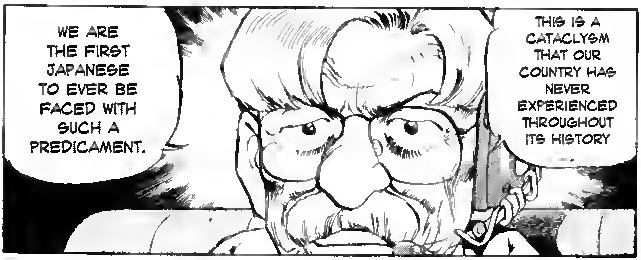
NO, NOT JUST BIWA.

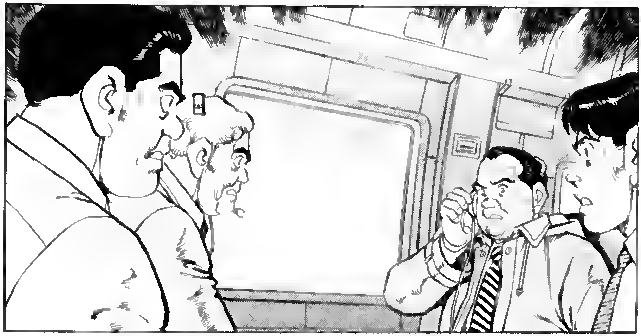
OSAKA'S IN THE SEA!
LAKE BIWA SPLIT ...

ALONG THE ENTIRE FAUL-T... OUR COUNTRY...
THIS ENTIRE CHAIN OF ISLANDS ...

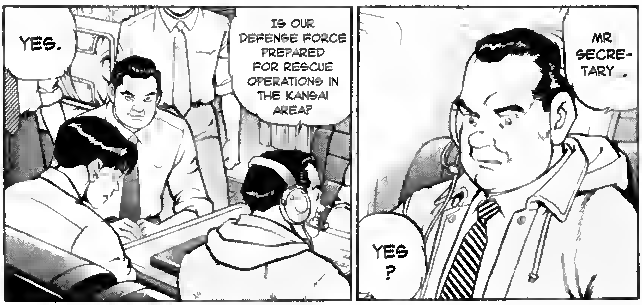
IS NOW
DIVIDED
!!

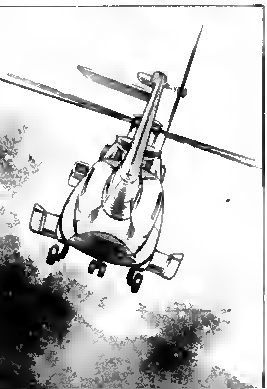
DIVIDED
!!

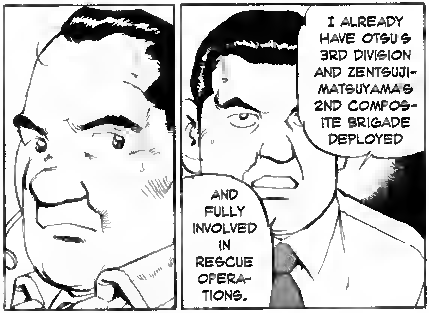

WE ARE THE FIRST JAPANESE TO EVER BE FACED WITH SUCH A PREDICAMENT.
THIS IS A CATACLYSM THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY



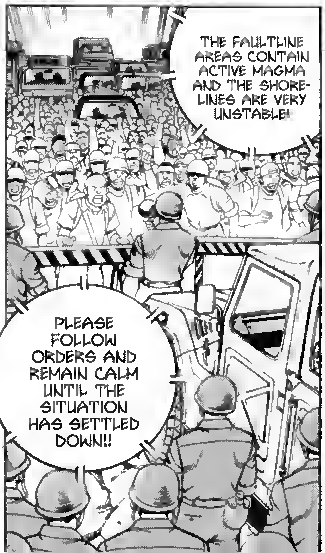
IS SPLIT ...
JAPAN ...

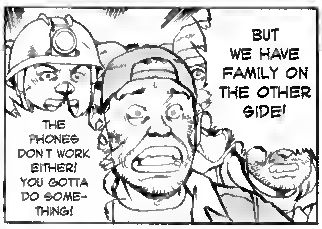

YES.
IS OUR DEFENSE FORCE PREPARED FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS IN THE KANSAI AREA?
MR SECRETARY...
YES?




I ALREADY HAVE OTSU'S 3RD DIVISION AND ZENTSUJI-MATSUYAMA'S 2ND COMPOSITE BRIGADE DEPLOYED AND FULLY INVOLVED IN RESCUE OPERATIONS.

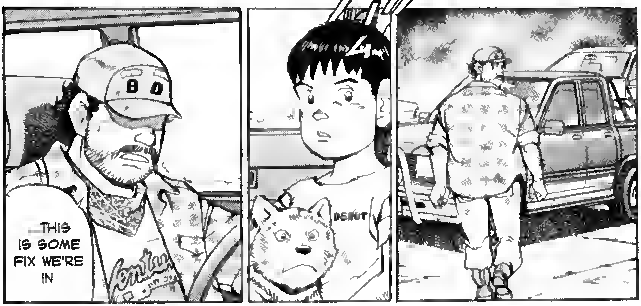
THE CLIFFS ALONG THE WATERFRONT ARE UNSTEADY AND DANGEROUS!
NO CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED WITHIN 200 METERS OF THE SHORE!!


THE FAULTLINE AREAS CONTAIN ACTIVE MAGMA AND THE SHORELINES ARE VERY UNSTABLE!
PLEASE FOLLOW ORDERS AND REMAIN CALM UNTIL THE SITUATION HAS SETTLED DOWN!!


BUT WE HAVE FAMILY ON THE OTHER SIDE!
THE PHONES DON'T WORK EITHER! YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

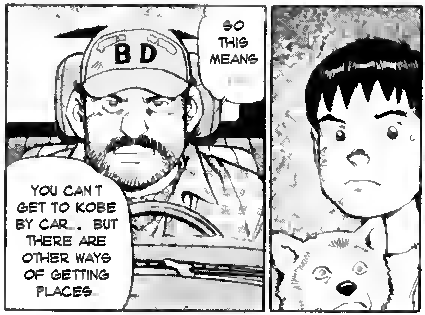
I CAN SEE ALL THOSE HELICOPTERS! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE US IN THOSE?!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY BOATS TO USE?!

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US A BIG CARRIER COPTER THEN?!
THE DEFENSE FORCE IS SUPPOSED TO WORK FOR THE CITIZENS!
WAIT?! YOU'RE KIDDING! WE'RE FREE TO GO WHERE WE LIKE!

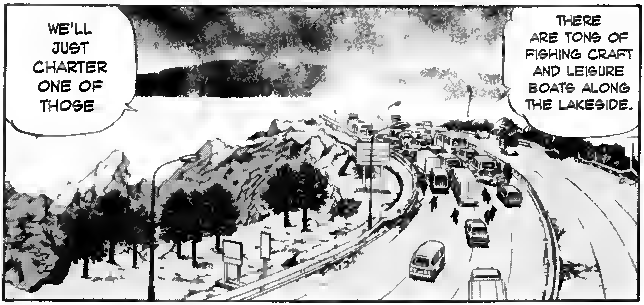

B D
THIS IS SOME FIX WE'RE IN
DEBUT

23

JAPAN CHANGED SHAPE?
B D
THEY SAID IT'S SPLIT STRAIGHT FROM MT. FUJI TO OSAKA.

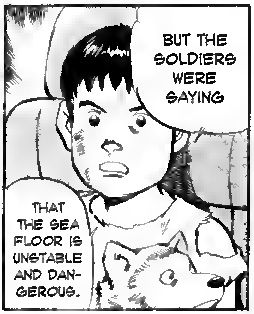

B D
SO THIS MEANS
YOU CAN'T GET TO KOBE BY CAR... BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF GETTING PLACES.

B D
YEAH... LAKE BIWA IS NOW PART OF THE SEA. IT'S A STRAIT ...

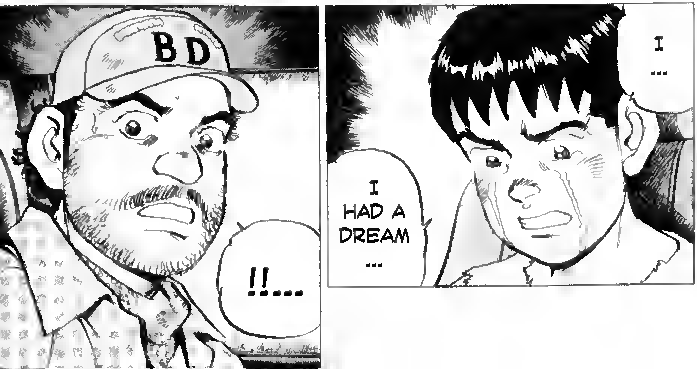

WE'LL JUST CHARTER ONE OF THOSE
THERE ARE TONS OF FISHING CRAFT AND LEISURE BOATS ALONG THE LAKESIDE.

WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE, WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE
FOR THE SDF TO TRANSPORT EVERYONE IN HELICOPTERS?

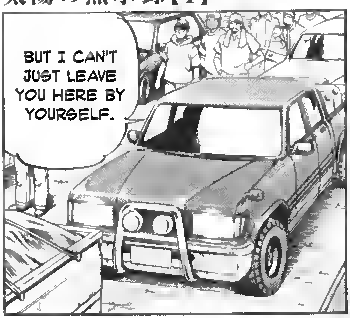
B D
YEAH, BUT...


BUT THE SOLDIERS WERE SAYING
THAT THE SEA FLOOR IS UNSTABLE AND DANGEROUS.

BD
IF WE WASTE TOO MUCH TIME HERE,
I MIGHT LOSE MY ONLY CHANCE TO HELP THEM.
BD
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER ...
MIGHT BE TRAPPED LIKE I ONCE WAS YEARS AGO, UNDER OUR HOME IN KOBE!
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ONLY 5 KM AT THE NARROWEST.
A MOTOR-BOAT'LL CROSS THAT IN 10 MINUTES.


BD
!!...
I ...
I HAD A DREAM ...

THAT MOM AND DAD WERE STUCK UNDER THE HOUSE, CALLING FOR ME IN THE DARK...
AND... I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP THEM!
I'M SORRY ...
IT WAS A STUPID THING OF ME TO SAY


BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF.

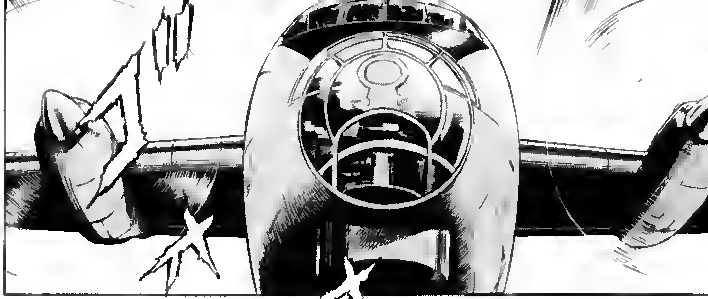
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED FOR YER PARENTS AND YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO TOKYO...

GOT IT?
SO FIRST, WE'RE HEADIN' ON OVER TO KOBE IN A BOAT!!

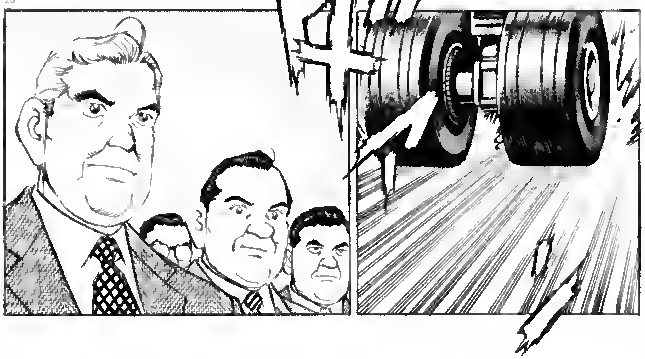
I SWEAR I'M GONNA GET YOU TO TOKYO!

YEAH !

WHEN YOU THINK WE JUST GOT OURSELVES ANOTHER BIG ISLAND, IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD THING!!
DON'T WORRY! JAPAN'S ALREADY AN ISLAND NATION! ANOTHER LITTLE STRAIT AIN'T NOTHIN TO FEAR!



NEW CHITOSE AIRPORT, SAPPORO



ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR ZHAO
THEY'D BE SENDING INSPECTORS FIRST, BUT
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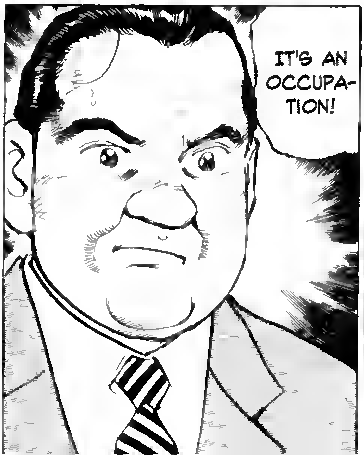
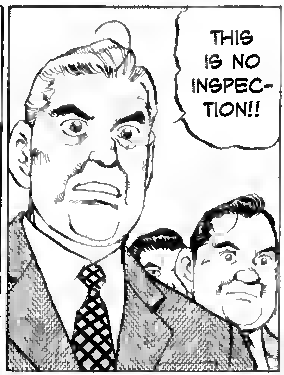
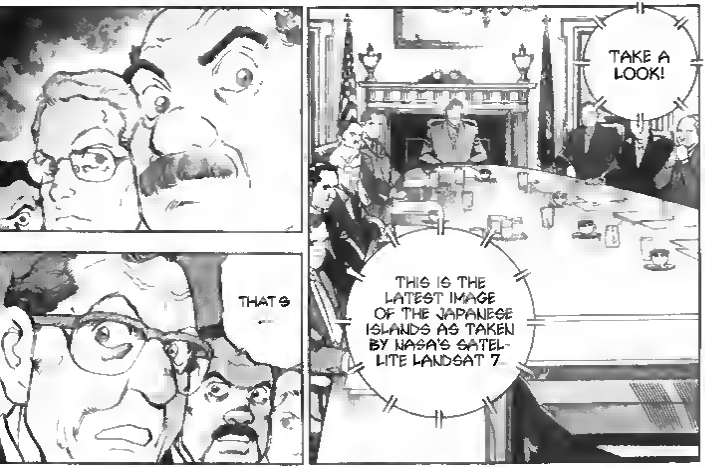
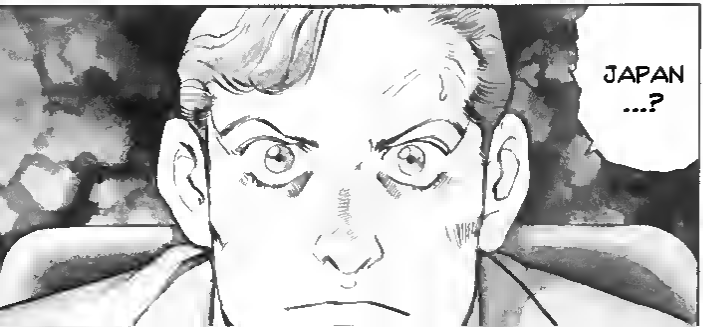


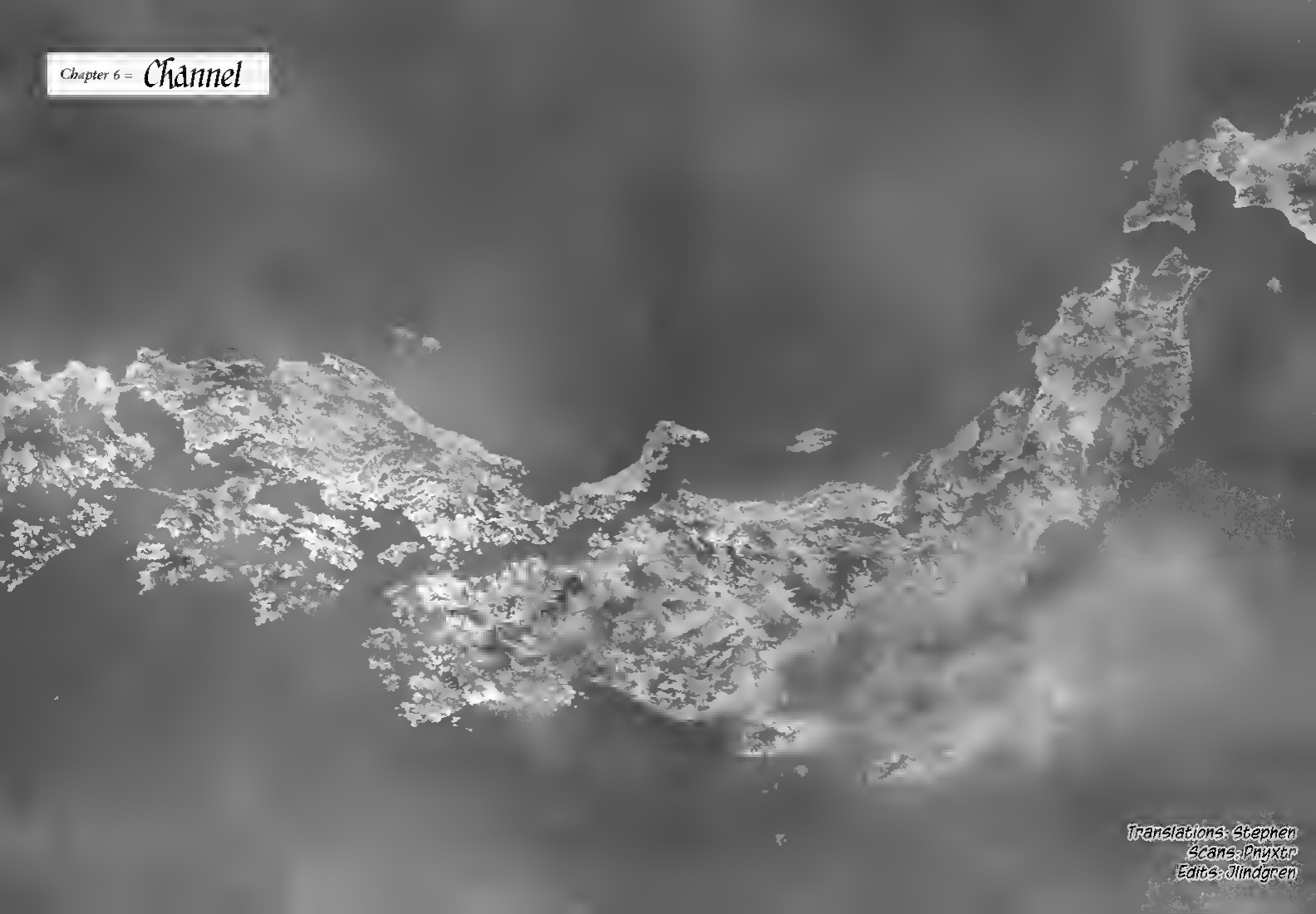


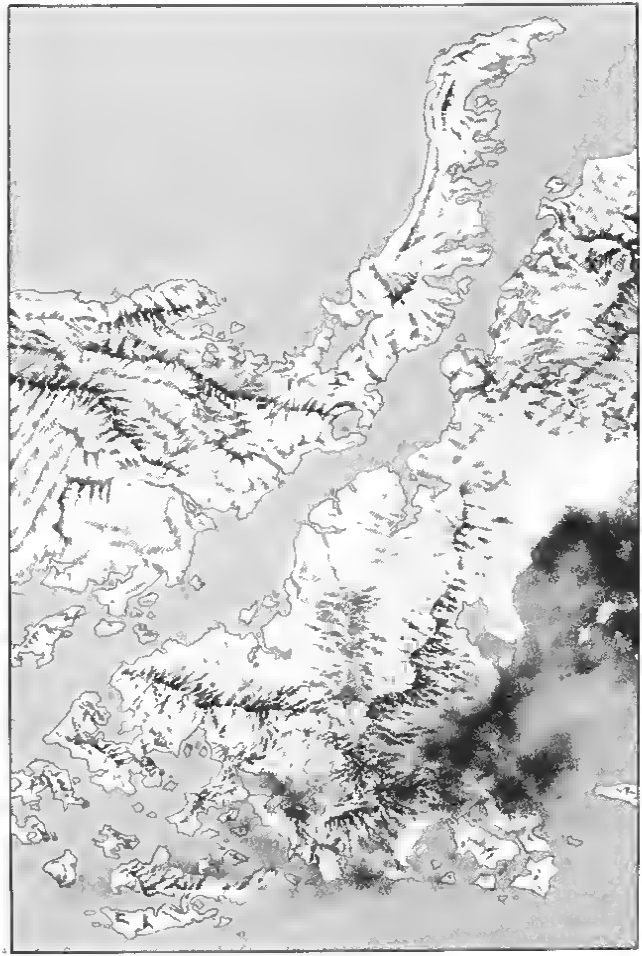
Chapter 5 = A Rift in the Islands = The End

JAPAN'S DEAD AND MISSING ARE SAID TO TOP 10 OR EVEN 20 MILLION.
FACED WITH ONE OF THE GREATEST DISASTERS TO BEFALL HUMANITY,

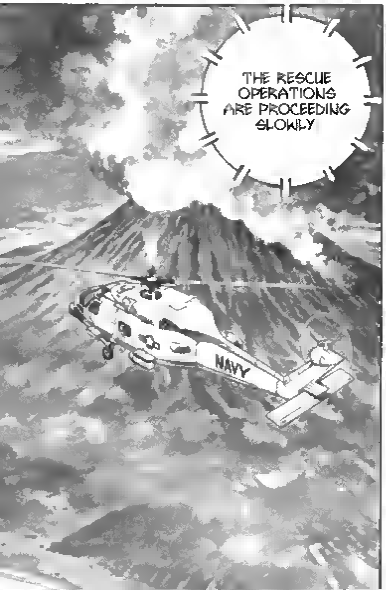

TAKE A LOOK!
THIS IS THE LATEST IMAGE OF THE JAPANESE ISLANDS AS TAKEN BY NASA'S SATELLITE LANDSAT 7.
THAT'S


JAPAN ...?


Chapter 6 = Channel
Translations: Stephen
Scans: Pnyxtr
Edits: Jlindgren



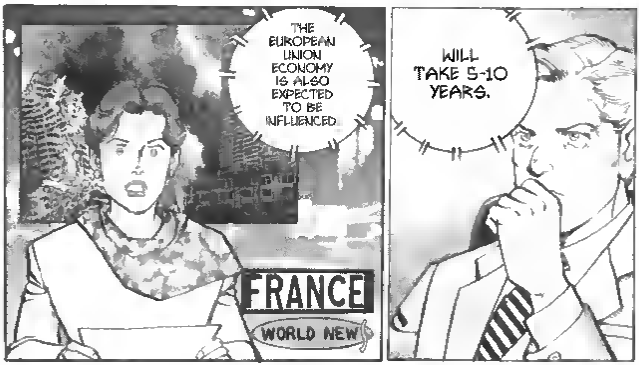
THE ISLANDS OF JAPAN ARE SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE, WITH APPROXIMATELY 1/5 OF THE COUNTRY NOW UNDERWATER...
THE AMERICAN NAVY'S RESCUE SQUADS ARE WORKING HARD WITH THE JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES,


THE RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE PROCEEDING SLOWLY
NAVY

BUT WITH THE AFTERSHOCKS OF FOUR ENORMOUS EARTH QUAKES,,

AND THE CONTINUING EFFECTS OF THE ERUPTION OF MT. FUJI
...

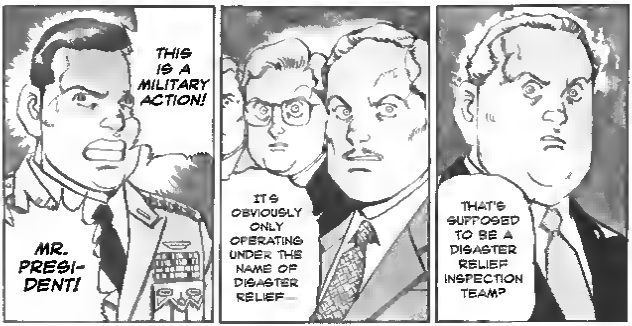
THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT THE SCHEDULE TO FULL RECOVERY
THE JAPANESE ECONOMY IS CURRENTLY AT A STANDSTILL IN THE FACE OF THESE DISASTERS
RUSSIA
ACN

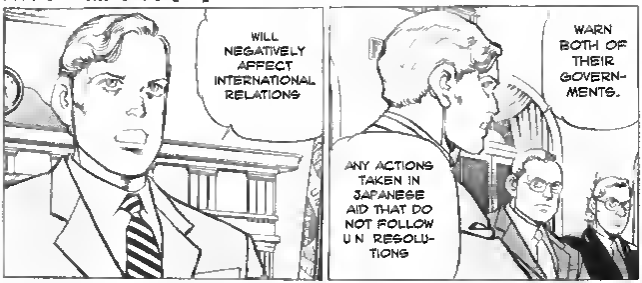

THE EUROPEAN UNION ECONOMY IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE INFLUENCED
FRANCE
WORLD NEW
WILL TAKE 5-10 YEARS.

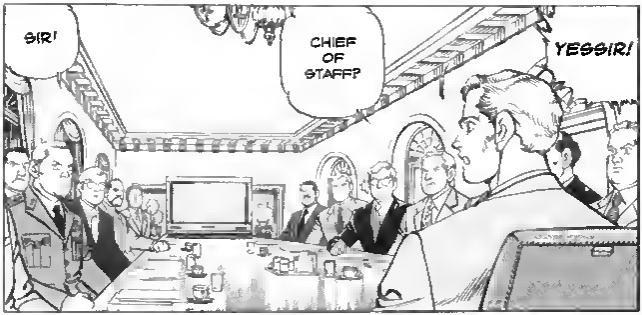
AND THIS WILL LIKELY SPREAD TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE E U AS WELL
EFFECTS WILL BE GREATEST ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY DUE TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF INVESTMENT PLACED IN JAPAN.

THESE NATURAL DISASTERS WILL SPREAD A CHAIN OF CHAOS ACROSS THE ENTIRE WORLD ECONOMY.
THIS IS BECAUSE MOST OF THE DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS THE E.U. HAS MADE ARE IN AMERICA
ACCORDING TO CHINA'S GUANGHUA NEWS,
WHICH ARRIVED IN SAPPORO'S NEW CHITOSE AIRPORT AMONG JAPANESE LEADERS ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 18TH,
CHINA HAS ANSWERED JAPAN'S CALL FOR HELP AND SENT A LARGE-SCALE DISASTER RELIEF INSPECTION TEAM,

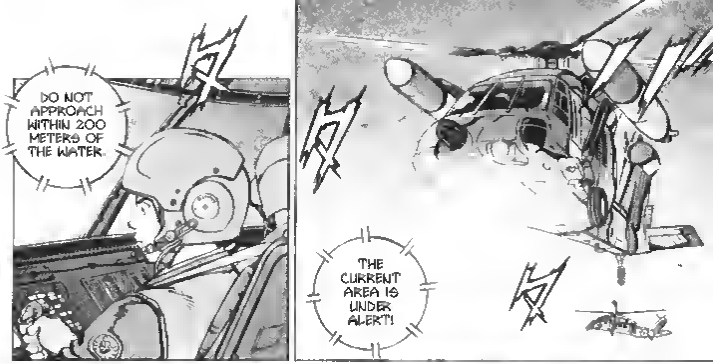
HOPING TO BRING TOGETHER A NEW AGE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN AND CHINA


THIS IS A MILITARY ACTION!
MR. PRESI-DENT!
IT'S OBVIOUSLY ONLY OPERATING UNDER THE NAME OF DISASTER RELIEF—
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A DISASTER RELIEF INSPECTION TEAM?


WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN JAPANESE AID THAT DO NOT FOLLOW U.N. RESOLUTIONS
WARN BOTH OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS.


SIR!
CHIEF OF STAFF?
YESSIR!

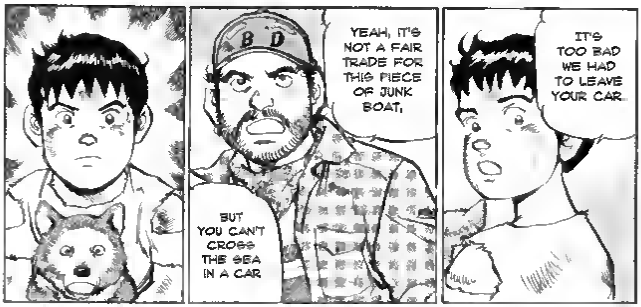
OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA HAS TO OVERPOWER CHINA'S!
YES, SIR!
I WANT YOU TO SUGGEST REINFORCEMENTS IN JAPAN TO THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE,
AND COME TO A DECISION BY THE END OF THE DAY.


DO NOT APPROACH WITHIN 200 METERS OF THE WATER.
THE CURRENT AREA IS UNDER ALERT!!

THE COAST IS UNSTABLE AND IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING IN AN AFTER SHOCK.

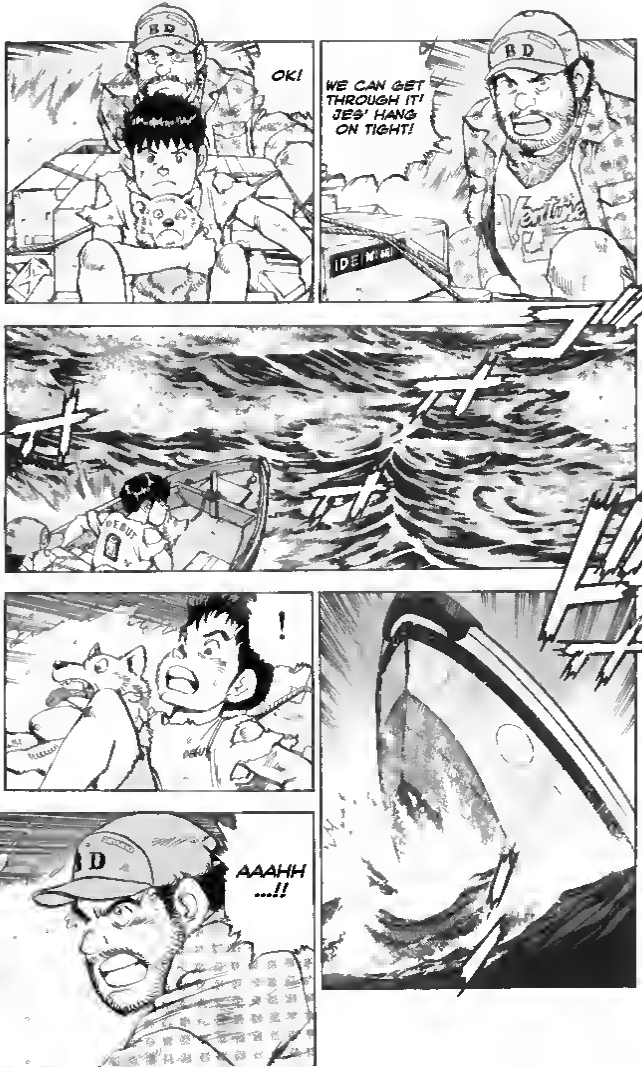
THERE THEY GO. C'MON

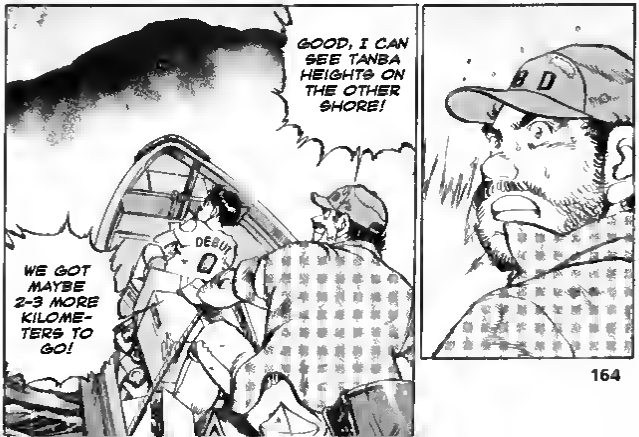
イイヒ!!!

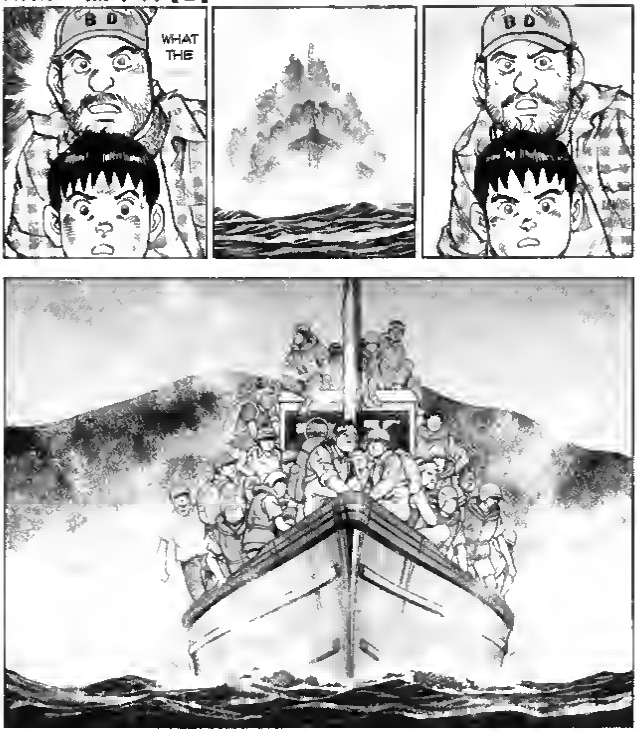

B D
IT'S TOO BAD WE HAD TO LEAVE YOUR CAR.
YEAH, IT'S NOT A FAIR TRADE FOR THIS PIECE OF JUNK BOAT,
BUT YOU CAN'T CROSS THE SEA IN A CAR

SOUNDS LIKE THE LANDSLIDES ARE STILL HAPPENING UNDERWATER.
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

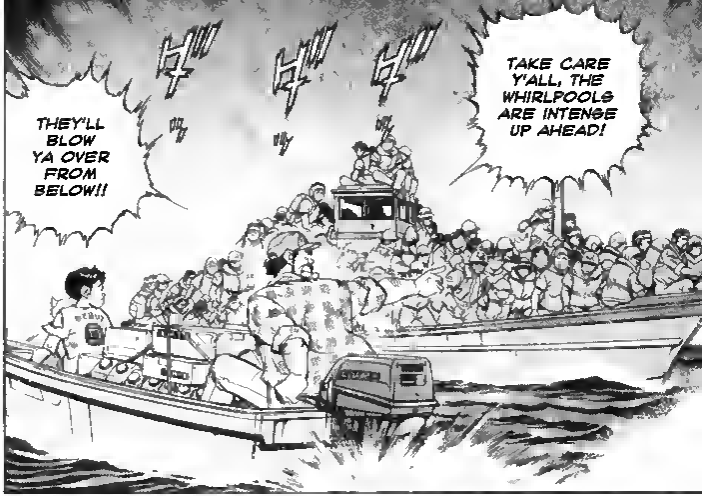
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO RUN
POOR GUY... THE LAND CAVED IN SO QUICKLY...
!
IT'S A PERSON
BD
LOOK... OVER THERE!


OK!
WE CAN GET THROUGH IT! JES' HANG ON TIGHT!
!
AAAHH ...!!


GOOD, I CAN SEE TANBA HEIGHTS ON THE OTHER SHORE!
WE GOT MAYBE 2-3 MORE KILOME-TERS TO GO!


B D
WHAT THE
B D

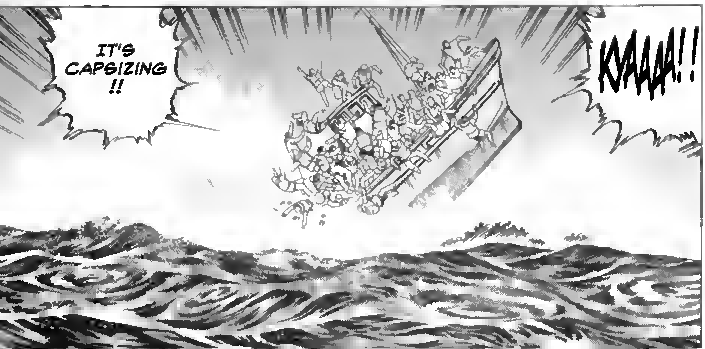
THEY'RE TRYING TO GO BACK TO KANTO, THE OPPOSITE FROM US— IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
B D
LOOK AT ALL THOSE PEOPLE, MISTER...


THEY'LL BLOW YA OVER FROM BELOW!!
TAKE CARE Y'ALL, THE WHIRLPOOLS ARE INTENSE UP AHEAD!

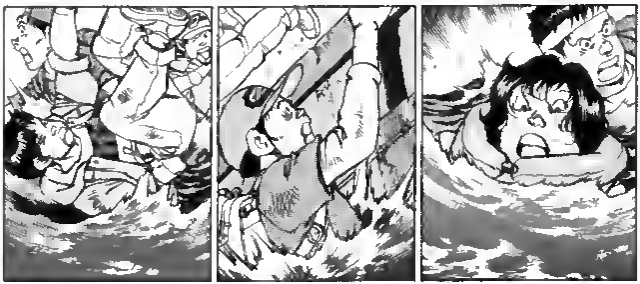
KOBE!
I'VE GOT FAMILY IN KOBE!!
WHERE ARE YOU TWO HEADED?!

THEN YOU'D BETTER HURRY! OSAKA AND KOBE ARE ABOUT TO SINK INTO THE WATER!!

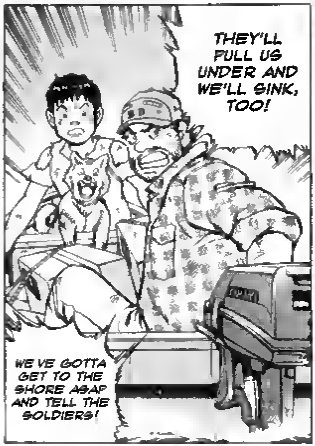
SHE CAN'T SWIM A LICK, NOT EVEN DOGGY PADDLE.
MY WIFE
IT'S SINKING ?!
DAMN, WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON!
!
AAAAH!!
HUH ...


IT'S CAPSIZING !!
KRAAA!!

WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
BUT



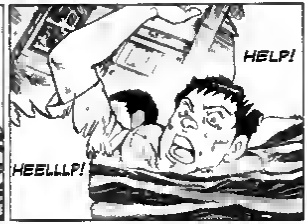
THEY'RE GONNA DROWN!
MISTER!
B D


THEY'LL PULL US UNDER AND WE'LL SINK, TOO!
WE'VE GOTTA GET TO THE SHORE ASAP AND TELL THE SOLDIERS!

B D
Y-YEAH, BUT...
THIS BOAT IS TOO SMALL TO SAVE ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE!!

WE'LL ASK THEM FOR HELP!

SAVE MY BOY!!
SAVE US!


HELP!
HEELLLP!

!
ARRGH!
GENICHIRO! WHADDA YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

20

YOU WANT TO EXCHANGE OUR LOAD FOR SOME PEOPLE...?

B D
TOSS IT ALL OVER-BOARD!!
... ALL RIGHT!

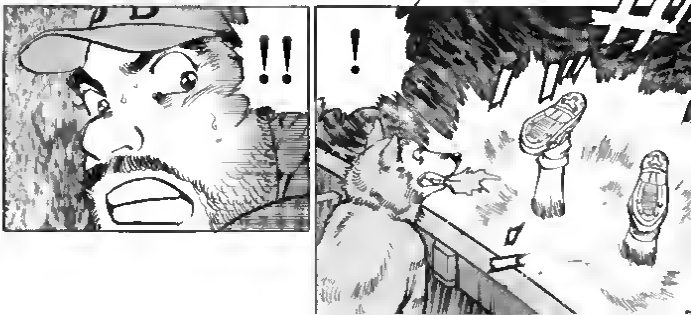
LET'S FILL THIS LITTLE BOAT UP!
WE'LL MAKE AS MANY TRIPS AS WE CAN!

B D

MISTER!

WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK, WITH HELP!
WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST!!
ANYONE WITH A LIFE JACKET, WAIT A BIT!!
!
HUFF, HUFF!
PLEASE, HELP MY BABY!!

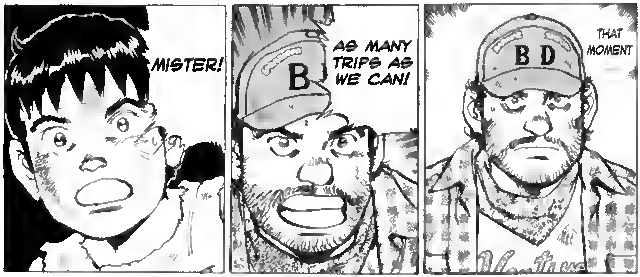
AAACK!


!!
!

WOOF!
W-WHERE IS HE ...?!
WOOF!
...GENICHIRO!
WOOF!
GENICHIRO!
GENICHI-ROOO!

GENICHI-
ROOOO!!

BUT BY THE NEXT DAY, WE STILL HADN'T FOUND HIM.
GENICHIRO'S QUICK DECISION SAVED DOZENS OF LIVES...


MISTER!
B
AS MANY TRIPS AS WE CAN!
B D
THAT MOMENT

HE SHOUTED ...

"THANKS,"
TO ME
...

B D

"THANKS"
...

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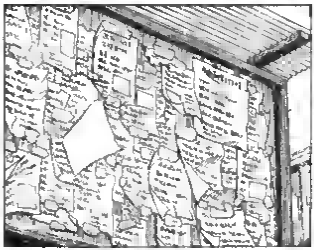

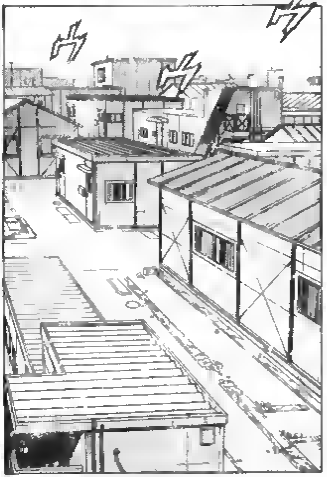
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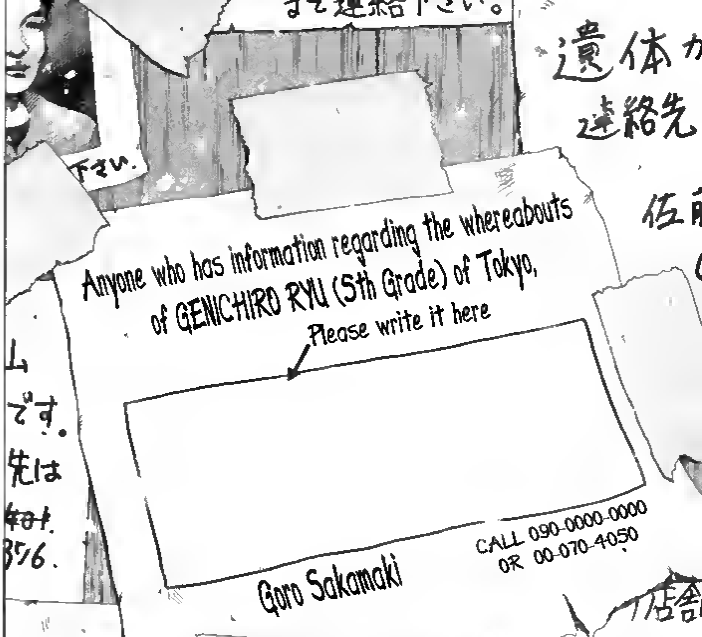
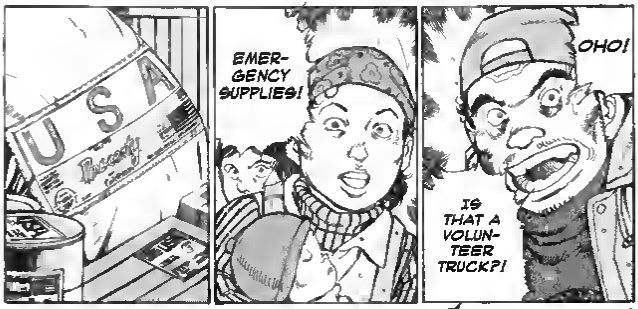

Anyone who has information regarding the whereabouts
of GENICHIRO RYU (5th Grade) of Tokyo,
Please write it here
Goro Sakamaki
CALL 090-0000-0000
OR 00-070-4050

Chapter 7 = Hope

Translations: Stephen
Scans: Pnyxtr
Edits: Jlindgren

OH ...
FEBRURRY 2003, KOBE


USA
EMER-GENCY SUPPLIES!
OHO!
IS THAT A VOLUN-TEER TRUCK?!

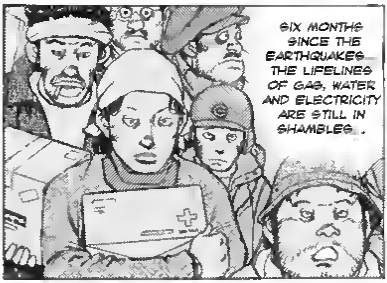
DON'T WORRY, THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERYBODY!
GO ON, LINE UP!!

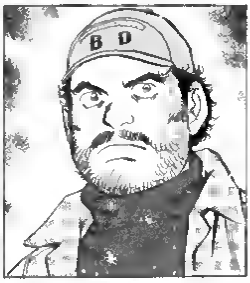
BUT THE COLD CUTS HARD..
AS BEST I CAN..
HEY, MA'AM, YA STILL HANGIN' IN THERE?!
HERE'S ANOTHER BLANKET, THEN!
WOOF!

DON'CHA WORRY, I GOT MY OWN BLANKET OF FAT TO KEEP ME WARM!
... AIN'T THIS YOURS, SAKAMAKI?

THANK YEH.
THANK YEH..
YOU STAY WARM
THIS WINTER'LL BE A ROUGH ONE.

AND 3 INSTANT RAMEN CUPS EACH!
5 KG OF RICE AND 3 KG OF FLOUR PER PERSON,
CLOTHING PRIORITY IS FOR THE ELDERLY!

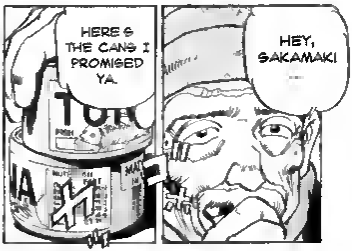

SIX MONTHS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKES. THE LIFELINES OF GAS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY ARE STILL IN SHAMBLES.


B D

WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE AREN'T GONNA LAST THE WINTER...
* TRANSPORTATION ROUTES DON'T SEEM LIKELY TO BE FIXED ANYTIME SOON, SO EVEN DELIVERING SUPPLIES IS DIFFICULT

THANK YE. FIRST YE SAVE ME IN LAKE BIWA, THEN YE KEEP ME FED.
WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

YA IN HERE, OLD BUDDY?
COUGH, COUGH.


HERE'S THE CANS I PROMISED YA.
HEY, SAKAMAKI

BUT I'D RATHER STAY IN KOBE

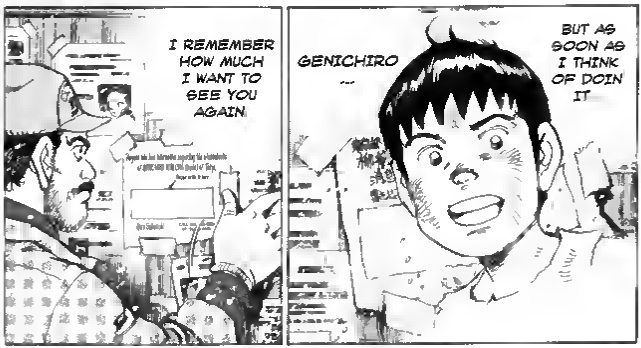
BD
IF I DIE, BEST BE HERE.

LOTS OF PEOPLE IN THIS AREA ARE ITCHIN TO GO.
THEY SAY TH' GOVERNMENT'S LOOKIN FER PEOPLE TO TEMPORARILY MOVE OUT O THE COUNTRY

ME ...?
BD
BUT YER GOIN' OVERSEAS TOO, AREN'T YA?
HEY NOW, DON'T BE TALKIN' LIKE THAT ...
THOSE TWO POOR GIRLS...
IT MUSTA BEEN HARD FOR YOU.. STAYING BEHIND.
I LIKE IT IN KOBE
I LIVED HERE WITH MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER
I'LL BE BACK AGAIN, OLD MAN. YOU STAY HEALTHY.
I'VE SAVED A LOTTA LIVES TO MAKE UP FOR IT..
WELL ...

NO NEWS ...
B D
Gen Sakaki

I ALWAYS CONTEMPLATE JUST JUMPIN' OFF AND JOINING MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER...
EVERY TIME I'VE STOOD AT THE EDGE OF A CLIFF ...


I REMEMBER HOW MUCH I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
GENICHIRO ...
BUT AS SOON AS I THINK OF DOIN IT

YEAH!
HEY @AKAMAKI, YA READY FOR THE NEXT @TOPP

After the disaster that split the Japanese islands and continues to to destroy the nation,
February 2003 ...

In response, they received over 30 million requests for overseas refuge from the Japanese people.
the government began discussions with countries offering space for temporary refugees, through the U.N.

HOKKAIDO -
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

BEFORE THEY LL OFFER ANY FUNDS, SUPPLIES OR ACCEPT REFUGEES!
THEY SAY IT IS THE FIRST STEP,
WHAT?! ALLOW THE CHINESE DELEGATES TO JOIN THE RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE?!

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
THEY'RE BASICALLY SAYING THAT ANY OPINIONS CONTRARY TO THEIR OWN WILL RESULT IN CHINA NOT COMING TO THE BARGAINING TABLE!

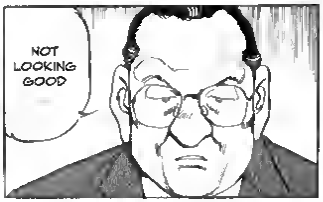
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE A CHOICE, PRIME MINISTER ISHIKURA!
IF WE REFUSE, THE TALKS ARE GOING TO GO COLD
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS REQUESTING A REPRESEN-TATIVE OF THEIR OWN!

11

JAPAN WILL LOSE ITS SOVEREIGNTY !!
IF THAT HAPPENS, THESE COUNTRIES WILL HOLD HEGEMONY OVER POST-RECONSTRUCTION JAPAN!

THE ENTERPRISES ARE NOWHERE NEAR REGAINING A FOOTHOLD TO RESUME BUSINESS.
SO WE CANNOT EXPECT A SPEEDY BUSINESS RECOVERY ANYTIME SOON.

IS THERE NO WAY WE CAN RECONSTRUCT ON OUR OWN...?
WHAT ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS?!


NOT LOOKING GOOD

INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE LIFELINES LIKE TRAFFIC, WATER, ELECTRICITY, AND COMMUNICATIONS, IS AT LEAST 300 TRILLION YEN.
THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING WE WOULD NEED IN ORDER TO RECOVER 1/2 OF THE PRE-DISASTER ECONOMY

300 TRILLION!

THOSE NUMBERS ARE ONLY GOING TO INCREASE THIS WINTER, IF WE DON'T GET THE LIFELINES BACK IN PLACE.
WE'VE GOT OVER 20 MILLION DEAD AND 40 MILLION MISSING, FROM THIS DISASTER...

EVEN IF WE LOSE OUR COMMAND,
WE SHOULD BE THE ONES ASKING *THEM* TO JOIN THE RECONSTRUC-TION TALKS.
IF THEY WITHDRAW THEIR ASSISTANCE...
JAPAN IS FINISHED.
THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO COUNTRIES WE CAN RELY ON FOR FUNDS

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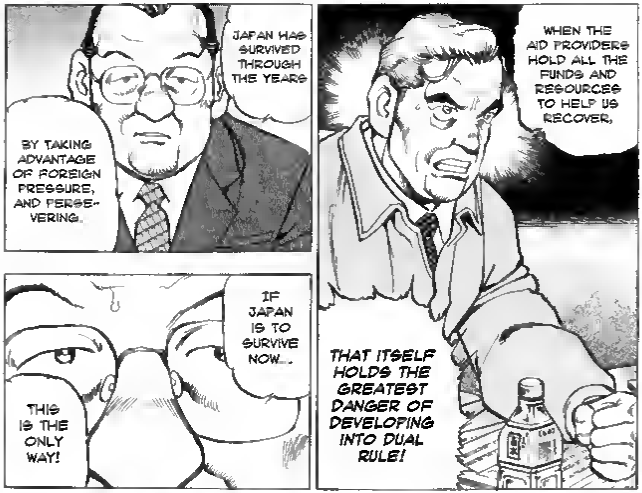
I'VE GOT A PLAN. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS SOUNDING OUT POSITIVE ANSWERS...
BUT RIGHT NOW, THE TWO ARMIES ARE DEPLOYED SUCH THAT
S-BUT WE CAN'T EXPECT ANY ONE COUNTRY TO PAY THAT KIND OF MONEY, EVEN AMERICA OR CHINA!
THEY'RE GOING TO HESITATE IF THEY HEAR THAT NUMBER!!

AMERICA IN THE SOUTHERN.
CHINA IS IN THE NORTHERN HALF...
OF RECON-STRUCTING THEIR HALF.
WE WILL ASK BOTH COUNTRIES TO TAKE CONTROL
INTO TWO HALVES ...!
SEPARATE THE NATION ...


JAPAN HAS SURVIVED THROUGH THE YEARS
BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FOREIGN PRESSURE, AND PERSEVERING.
WHEN THE AID PROVIDERS HOLD ALL THE FUNDS AND RESOURCES TO HELP US RECOVER,
IF JAPAN IS TO SURVIVE NOW...
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!
THAT ITSELF HOLDS THE GREATEST DANGER OF DEVELOPING INTO DUAL RULE!

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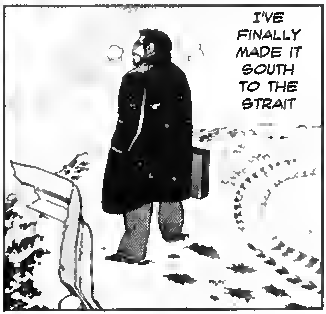
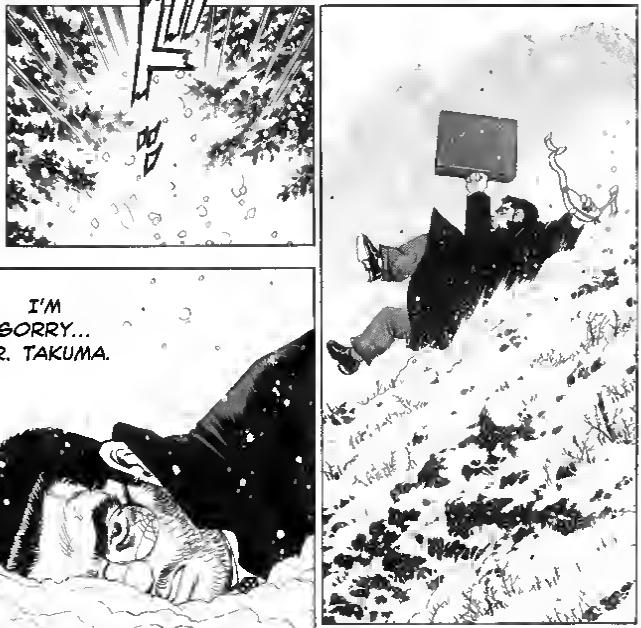
BUT I HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE TRACE ...
OF GENICHIRO.

FROM MT. HAKONE... TO NAGOYA... TO SHIGA...


I'VE FINALLY MADE IT SOUTH TO THE STRAIT

WHOA!
!
I SUPPOSE HE REALLY IS


I'M SORRY... DR. TAKUMA.

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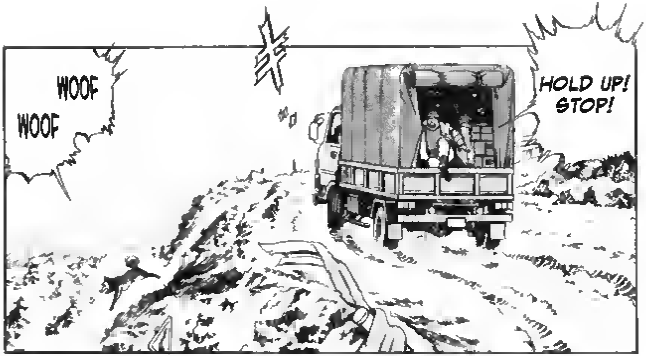
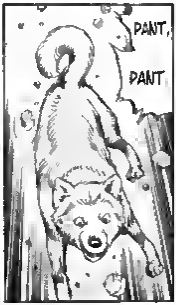
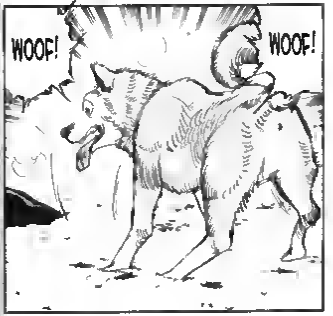

WOOF
WOOF
HOLD UP! STOP!

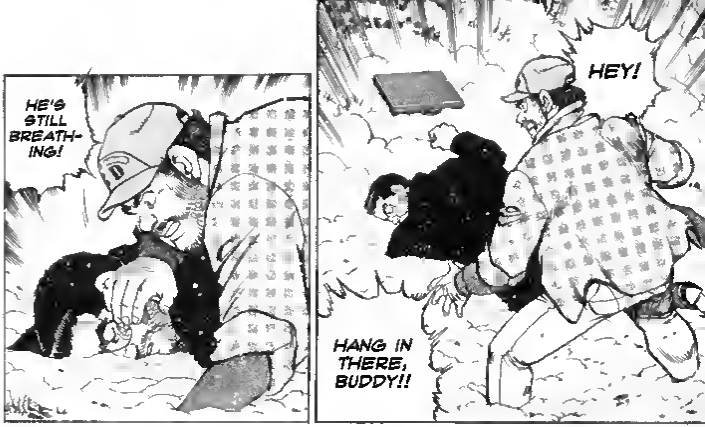
B D
HUFF!
HUFF!

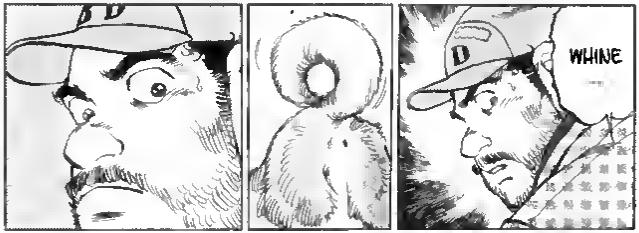

PANT,
PANT

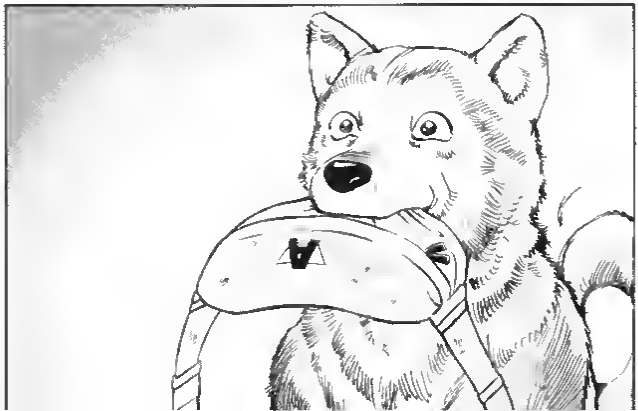
DIDJA FIND SOMETHIN' ?!

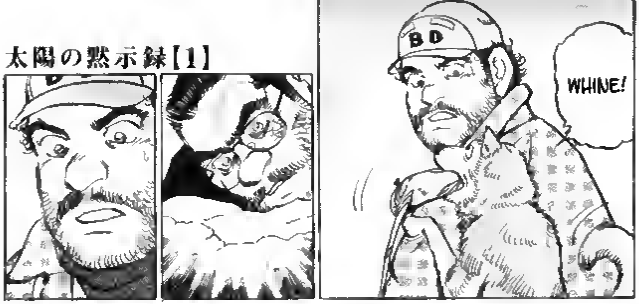
IT'S A HUMAN!
HEY!

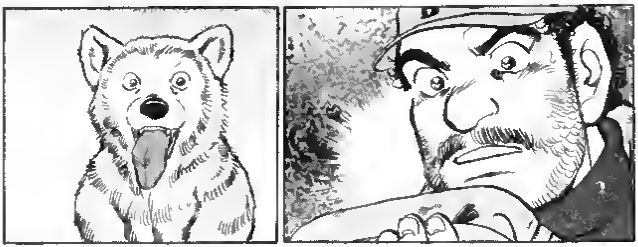

WOOF!
WOOF!


HE'S STILL BREATH-ING!
HEY!
HANG IN THERE, BUDDY!!


WHINE




WHINE!



HUH ...?
HEY, BUDDY! IS THIS PACK WHAT I THINK IT IS...?

GENICHIRO ...?
THE SON OF A POLITICIAN ..?
... AND SO GENICHIRO FELL INTO THE STRAIT ...?

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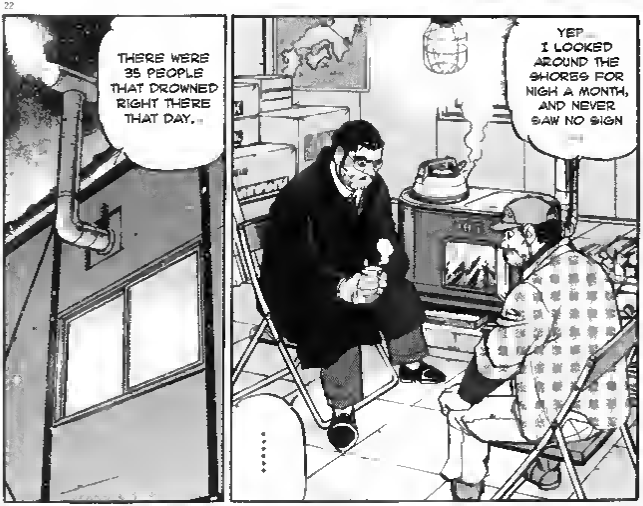
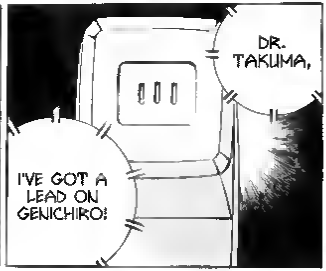

THERE WERE 35 PEOPLE THAT DROWNED RIGHT THERE THAT DAY.
YEP I LOOKED AROUND THE SHORES FOR NIGH A MONTH, AND NEVER SAW NO SIGN
.....

BUT . 23 WERE SAVED.
GENICHIRO'S PLEA SAVED THEM.
THIS LIL' FELLA, TOO.
IT WAS 24, IF YOU COUNT ME ..
WHINE
ACTUALLY, TO BE HONEST ...

MR. JIMICHI.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT TYKE DYIN' SO EASILY,

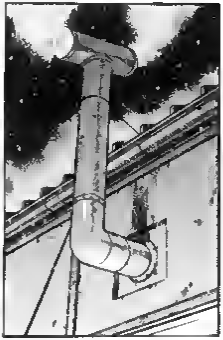
DR. RYU, PHONE CALL FOR YOU!
FROM YOUR SECRETARY, MR. JIMICHI!

YOU WHAT?!


DR. TAKUMA,
I'VE GOT A LEAD ON GENICHIRO!

24

I BELIEVE THAT HE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE AND WELL, SOMEWHERE!
BUT THE BODY HAS NOT BEEN FOUND



I SEE THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
WELL DONE
OF COURSE.
REPEAT THOSE WORDS OF GENICHIRO'S TO ME AGAIN.
JIMICHI.
YES, SIR?

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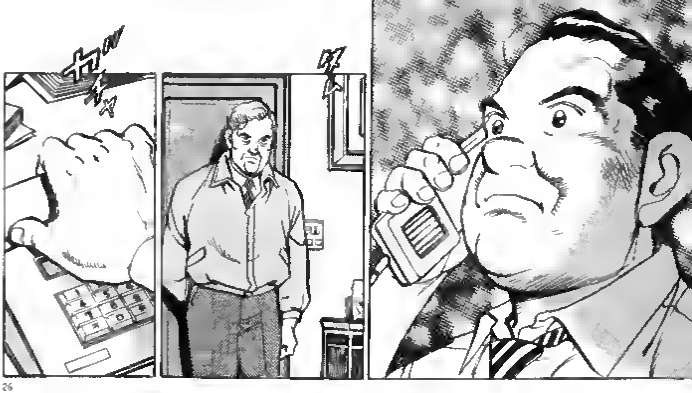
THERE'S NOTHING BUT THE SUN AND BLUE SKIES...
UP ABOVE THE CLOUDS OF ASH,



MR PRIME MINISTER!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THE WORST AND ALLOW SPLIT CONTROL!!
THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW.. IF WE CANNOT SURVIVE TODAY!